

**MINUTES OF THE  
TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

**LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA  
JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2013**

**W. MARK CLARK, ADMINISTRATOR  
THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
Plenary 1	1
Plenary 2	5
Plenary 3	10
Statement of Commendation Celebrating the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of CHHSM	13
Plenary 4	15
Resolution Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery which Authorized the Genocide of Native Peoples and the Theft of Native Lands	18
Resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants	20
Resolution to Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to our Veterans	23
Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada	24
Resolution Restructuring Conference Boundaries	25
Plenary 5	28
Resolution Urging Divestment -- Along with Other Strategies -- From Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change	31
Resolution On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral	34
Resolution Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society	35
Plenary 6	39
Statement of Commendation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Annuity Fund	41
Plenary 7	42
Resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ	43
Resolution in Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ	47
Pastoral Letter from the Collegium on Gun Violence	49
Resolution on Affirmation of Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries	51

Resolution on The United Samoan Ministries of the United Church of Christ Request to be Recognized as a historically underrepresented Group and Member of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries	55
Plenary 8	57
Minority Report on the resolution Calling for an All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ	58
Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination	59
Resolution Advocating for Funding to Construct Quality Affordable Housing	62
Resolution Advocating for Tax Reform as Christian Stewardship and Public Duty	63
Resolution for A Call to Respond to Violence and Human Rights Violations in Honduras Resulting from Illegal Drug Trafficking and Drug Policy in the United States	65
Resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia	68
Credits Page	74

#### A Listing of Delegates to the Twenty-ninth General Synod

Appendix A:	Report of the Credentials Committee
Appendix B:	Second Report of the Executive Council
Appendix C:	First Report of the Executive Council
Appendix D:	Report of the Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee
Appendix E:	Amended First Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee
Appendix F:	Second Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee
Appendix G:	Report of the Chair of the Executive Council
Appendix H:	The Finance Report

**MINUTES  
TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

**GOD'S VISION**

**LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA  
JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Friday Afternoon, June 28, 2013**

**First Plenary Session**

**1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator Libby Tigner (CA NV, S) called the first business session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to order at 3:10 PM and welcomed delegates, visitors and guests.

**2. WELCOME FROM THE HOST CONFERENCE**

Moderator Tigner noted the extravagant hospitality of Local Arrangements Committees of each General Synod that work throughout the biennium preparing for delegates, honored guests and visitors. She then introduced Mr. Felix Villanueva, Conference Minister for the California Nevada Southern Conference, who welcomed everyone to Long Beach.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP**

Moderator Tigner introduced Assistant Moderators Mr. Brian Holeman (CAC) and Ms. Dale Bonds (SC).

Ms. Tigner also introduced the Parliamentarians, Mr. Bob Frieberg (SD) who serves as Moderators' Parliamentarian, and Ms. Denise Page Hood (MICH) who serves as the delegates' Parliamentarian.

Ms. Hood and Mr. Frieberg alerted the delegates to appropriate procedural rules as well as the role of the Youth Stewards.

Ms. Tigner explained the committee process, including the composition and roll of the Agenda Committee.

**4. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Tony Fields (PW), Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, who moved the adoption of the Report of the Credentials Committee (Appendix A). He reported the delegation as a whole exceeds the number of delegates under the age of thirty and conferences have made good faith efforts to seek diversity and to be in compliance with the bylaws. Mr. Fields, Mr. Lee Foley, Minister for Governing Body Relations, and Ms. Susan Towner-Larsen, Minister for Conference Relations, will follow up with conferences that haven't reached bylaw requirements.

**13-GS-1 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the report of the Credentials Committee by consensus.

**5. QUORUM DECLARED**

Moderator Tigner declared a quorum was present and the Twenty-ninth General Synod was in session with 843 delegates in attendance, representing all thirty-eight conferences.

**6. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC VOTING**

Moderator Tigner advised the California Nevada Southern Conference delegation will serve as honorary tellers for this General Synod as once again electronic voting will be used. She then instructed the delegates on the use of voting devices.

**7. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA**

Ms. Tigner indicated that the Executive Council will serve as the General Synod “ad Interim” and will serve as the Business Committee and Committee of Reference of the General Synod during its sessions. As such it shall prepare the agenda and schedule all meetings of the General Synod, and recommend changes therein during sessions.

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved the adoption of the Agenda for the Twenty-ninth General Synod as included in The Second Report of the Executive Council (Appendix B), and authorization for the Agenda Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

**13-GS-2 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the agenda as included in the Second Report of the Executive Council and authorizes the Agenda Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

**8. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES / GRANTING VOICE TO RESOURCE PERSONS**

Moderator Tigner again called on Ms. Penny Lowes, who moved the adoption of the Standing Rules of the Twenty-ninth General Synod included in The First Report of the Executive Council (Appendix C).

**13-GS-03 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Standing Rules.

**9. GRANTING VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO RESOURCE PERSONS**

Ms. Lowes recommended voice without vote be granted to resource persons approved by the Business Committee who will be asked to make reports and speak to certain issues. The names of those persons are included in The Second Report of the Executive Council Report (Appendix B) that was provided to delegates.

**13-GS-04 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice without vote by consensus to resource persons approved by the Business Committee.

**10. GRANTING VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO DESIGNATED GROUPS**

Ms. Lowes moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod grant voice without vote to the designated groups and to their stated representatives who were approved by the Executive Council and included in The First and Second Reports of the Executive Council (Appendices B and C).

**13-GS-05 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice without vote by consensus to the designated groups and to their stated representatives who were approved by the Executive Council.

**11. SECOND NOTICE OF MINISTRY BOARDS TO ALTER THEIR MEMBERSHIPS**

Moderator Tigner advised that more than the required percentage of conferences ratified the amendments of the United Church of Christ Constitution related to the creation of a new United Church of Christ Board and other significant changes to governance of the national setting. The final formal actions required for implementation are votes by the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries to take specific actions. These votes are scheduled to be taken at special Board meetings tomorrow morning.

Part of this process is that the Boards of Directors of Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries must notify two regular meetings of the General Synod of their intent to change the sizes of their Boards of Directors. The first such notice was provided to General Synod Twenty-eight in Tampa two years ago. The following announcements serve as the second of the required notifications.

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Carol Williams-Swoope of Local Church Ministries, Ms. Alice Harper Jones of Justice and Witness Ministries and Mr. Bing Tso of Wider Church Ministries to report on the actions of their respective Boards.

Ms. Williams-Swoope, Ms. Jones and Mr. Tso each announced their respective Boards approved the resolution to change the size and composition of their Board.

**12. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. J. Matthew Deal (PW) to present The Report of the Nominating Committee Chair (Appendix D).

Mr. Deal submitted The First Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix E) and The Second Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix F) and urged the election of the outstanding nominees presented in the two reports.

Ms. Tigner received the reports without objection and advised that elections will be held on Monday.

**13. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Moderator Tigner invited Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to present The Report of the Executive Council Chair (Appendix G) and to share reflections on the past biennium and bring before the General Synod four more pieces of business.

Ms. Lowes moved the adoption of The First Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix E), the thirty-six at-large members of the United Church of Christ Board.

Moderator Tigner advised the election will be conducted on Monday afternoon and nominations for the United Church of Christ Board are now closed.

Ms. Lowes moved the election of Mr. Brian Holeman (CAC) as the Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod, as found in The Second Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix F).

Moderator Tigner stated the Standing Rules provide for floor nominations for this position. Seeing none, she advised that nominations for Moderator are now closed and the election will be held Monday afternoon.

Ms. Lowes moved the election of Ms. Sue Artt (IS) as the Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod, as found in The Second Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix F).

Moderator Tigner stated the Standing Rules provide for floor nominations for this position. Seeing none, she advised that nominations for Assistant Moderator are now closed and the election will be held Monday afternoon.

Ms. Lowes moved the election of the slate of at-large candidates for the Thirtieth General Synod Nominating Committee as nominated by the Executive Council and posted for delegate review since March and found in The First Report of the Executive Council (Appendix C).

Moderator Tigner stated the Standing Rules provide for floor nominations for these positions. Seeing none, she advised that nominations for at-large candidates for the Thirtieth General Synod Nominating Committee are now closed and the election will be held Monday afternoon.

Ms. Tigner thanked Ms. Lowes for her exemplary service to the church and her gracious leadership as Chair of the Executive Council during this biennium.

#### **14. COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT**

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Doug Wooten, Chairperson of the Executive Council's Committee of Reference, for a report.

Mr. Wooten moved the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the Committee of Reference Reports, as found in The First Report of the Executive Council (Appendix C) and The Second Report of the Executive Council (Appendix B) and delegate to the Business Committee the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary of this General Synod.

**13-GS-06** – The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Committee of Reference Report and delegates to the Business Committee the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary of this General Synod.



## **15. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS (BY TITLE ONLY)**

Moderator Tigner reviewed the process for bringing new business to the General Synod. No new business was presented.

## **16. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Moderator Tigner called on Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark for announcements.

1. Mr. Clark recognized Ms. Sara Morse and Ms. Beth Kennett, Head Ushers and Floor Managers for the Bar of the House.
2. A Q-R code on the back of the program book can be scanned to access a mobile-friendly version of the General Synod website. A URL code can also be accessed.
3. Wireless access is available at no charge. Instructions are listed in the program book.
4. Please pick up badge holders in the registration area.
5. Please be sure to stop by the Exhibit Hall throughout General Synod. The exhibits will be open today at noon through noon on Tuesday.
6. Sign-ups for our first SpeakOut! tomorrow morning will be immediately following this plenary.

## **17. RECESS**

Moderator Tigner declared the Twenty-ninth General Synod to be in recess until 7:30 PM.

**Friday Evening, June 28, 2013**

**Second Plenary Session**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called the Second Plenary Session to order.

### **2. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS**

Ms. Bonds welcomed the following former officers, executives of instrumentalities, and former moderators of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Marvin Morgan, Moderator of the Twenty-seventh General Synod  
Mr. Merlyn Lawrence, Moderator of the Twenty-sixth General Synod  
Mr. Norman "Jack" Jackson, Moderator of the Twenty-fifth General Synod  
Mr. Nate A. Lewis, Jr., Moderator of the Twenty-fourth General Synod  
Ms. Denise Page Hood, Moderator of the Twenty-second General Synod  
Mr. John Krueger, Moderator of the Fifteenth General Synod  
Ms. Yvonne Delk, former Executive of the Office for Church in Society  
Ms. Loey Powell, former Executive of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society  
Mr. David Hirano, former Executive of the United Church Board for World Ministries, and his wife Sandra Hirano  
Mr. Arthur Cribbs, former Executive of the Office of Communication  
Ms. Joan Brannick and Mr. John Ordway, former Executive Vice Presidents of The Pension Boards, and Mr. Ordway's wife Patricia Ordway

Ms. Carol Joyce, former Secretary of the Church, and her husband Neal Luebke  
Ms. Doris Powell, former Treasurer of the Church  
Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, former Officer and Executive Minister of Justice and  
Witness Ministries, and her husband Franklyn Jackson  
Ms. Olivia Masih White and her husband Terry White, Mr. Bennie Whiten and his wife  
Sue Sporte, and Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte, former officers of the Church and  
Executive Ministers for Wider Church Ministries  
Mr. Steve Sterner, former Officer and Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries,  
and his wife Judith Sterner  
Ms. Edith Guffey, former Associate General Minister, and her husband Jerry Guffey  
Mr. Paul Sherry, former President of the United Church of Christ, and his wife  
Mary Sherry

The above honored guests were given a standing ovation and Assistant Moderator Bonds declared that, with the body's acclamation, these honored guests are granted voice in the Twenty-ninth General Synod. She then led the body in prayer.

### **3. RE-NOMINATION AND SPEECH OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS CANDIDATE**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Alice Harper-Jones, Chairperson of Justice and Witness Ministries, to introduce Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries.

Ms. Harper-Jones presented Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo as the candidate for Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Jaramillo expressed a deep respect for her colleagues in ministry. Her comments included: Our job is to do and be a continuing testament. All forms of injustice can be overcome. When one part of the body suffers, we all hurt. We must move from hostility to hospitality. Are we willing to fling open our doors and become an immigrant-welcoming congregation? Are we ready to go beyond "resolutionizing" the church?

Assistant Moderator Bonds thanked Ms. Jaramillo for her comments.

### **4. MARRIAGE EQUALITY / SCARF PROJECT**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. Michael Schuenemeyer, Executive for Health and Wholeness Advocacy, Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, Ms. Marja Coons-Torn, Penn Central Conference Minister, and Mr. Andy Lang, Executive Director of the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns, to speak to the recent Supreme Court decisions regarding marriage equality with two cases: Windsor vs. U. S. addressing the Defense of Marriage Act and Hollingsworth vs. Perry that speaks to Proposition 8 in California.

Mr. Schuenemeyer stated the Twenty-fifth General Synod affirmed equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender; declared that the government should not interfere with couples regardless of gender who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and commitment of legally recognized marriage; affirmed equal access to the basic rights, institutional protections and quality of life conferred by the recognition of marriage and urged the church to work against legislation, including constitutional amendments, which

denies civil marriage rights to couples based on gender.

He stated that members of the United Church of Christ have continued to provide amazing leadership in the struggle for marriage equality. The General Synod has joined “Friend of the Court” briefs in several marriage equality cases, including the two cases heard by the U. S. Supreme Court in March of this year.

There are now twelve states that have the freedom to marry and the United Church of Christ has been an integral part of this incredible movement for equality and justice.

Mr. Black expressed his pride of the countless leaders in the United Church of Christ who have been part of making marriage equality a reality across the country. He led the General Synod in prayer asking for God’s blessing on everyone who has entered into a covenantal relationship of love and commitment, and for those who are in solidarity for equality and justice.

Mr. Black then introduced Ms. Marja Coons-Torn and Mr. Andy Lang, to explain the Scarf Project to raise awareness of bullying and violence, with particular emphasis related to sexual orientation or gender identity. Ms. Coons-Torn advised that more than three thousand hand-knitted scarves have been collected and she invited everyone to pick up a scarf in the Exhibit Hall and take the pledge to take action against the bullying of LGBT youth.

Mr. Lang expressed thanks to the men, women and youth across the country who created these beautiful scarves, as well as the staff of the California Nevada Southern Conference who collected and stored them over the past year.

## **5. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL GUESTS**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Karen Georgia Thompson, Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, to introduce our Ecumenical Delegates and Partners.

Ms. Thompson introduced the following ecumenical guests:

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Dr. Robert Welsh, President for the Council on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Officer, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Robina Winbush, Associate Stated Clerk and Director for Ecumenical and Agency Relationships and President of Churches Uniting in Christ, from the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Phyllis Palsma, Interim Pastor for the Paramus Reformed Church, from the Reformed Church in America. Rev. Palsma is also completing her term of service on the United Church of Christ’s Executive Council

Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the President of the National Council of Churches of Christ, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Rev. J. Lee Hill, Senior Pastor of Christian Fellowship Congregational Church in San Diego, CA who served on the Alliance Board of Directors from the Alliance of Baptists

Rev. Michael Blair, Executive Minister, Communities in Mission Unit, from the United Church of Canada  
Rev. Karen Smart, Program Coordinator for Governance Support, from the United Church of Canada  
Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Ecumenical Liaison and Executive Director for the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, from the National Baptist Convention  
Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Bishop for the 20<sup>th</sup> District and Ecumenical Officer, from the African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Rev. Peter Morales, President, from the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
Rev. Carlos Malave, Executive Director, from the Christian Churches Together  
Ms. Natasha Klukach, Program Executive for Church and Ecumenical Relations and North American Regional Relations, from the World Council of Churches  
Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi, General Secretary, from the World Communion of Reformed Churches

**13-GS-07 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice to these ecumenical guests by consensus.

## **6. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS AND FORMATION OF THE HAYSTACK SOCIETY**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. James Moos, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, to introduce and welcome our overseas guests and missionaries and the formation of the Haystack Society.

Mr. Moos brought greetings from more than two hundred seventy international partners and one hundred mission personnel, who join thousands of others who built our churches' two hundred-year legacy of global mission, beginning in 1806. Mr. Moos announced the formation of the Haystack Society to honor our historic legacy and a fund to ensure the future of mission. He introduced Rev. Dr. Prince Dibeela, General Secretary of the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa, who introduced a video presenting the haystack event and the initiation of the Haystack Society.

Mr. Moos then introduced the following guests:

### From Africa

Ms. Gertrude Amenu and her spouse Francis, from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana

Rev. Dr. Prince Dibeela and his spouse Cheryl, from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

Rev. Clement Mputu Y'onganga, Vice President of the Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo

Rev. Seth Agidi, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana

Ms. Megan Baxter, Theological Education by Extension College, South Africa

From East Asia and the Pacific

Bishop Reuel Normal O. Marigza, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines

From Europe

Professor Paolo Naso, the Waldensian Church in Italy

From the Middle East

Dr. Mira Rizeq, General Secretary of the YWCA of Palestine

From Southern Asia

Rev. Dr. Henrietta Huttabarat, General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, Indonesia

Mr. Moos moved that these international partner guests be granted voice without vote for the duration of General Synod.

Mr. Moos also welcomed partners who have relationships with Conferences or local churches and asked them to stand and be greeted with applause.

**13-GS-08 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice without vote for the duration of General Synod to these overseas guests by consensus.

Mr. Moos then introduced the following Global Ministries mission personnel:

Mr. John and Ms. Faye Buttrick, recently appointed as long term volunteers to serve with Kairos Palestine

Mr. Ken and Ms. Betty Frank, recently retired from three decades of work with the Health and Education Foundation in Turkey

Mr. Loren McGrail, currently serving with the YWCA of Palestine

Mr. Jeffrey Mensendiek, who serves with Kwansai Gakuin University and the United Church of Christ in Japan

Ms. Jeanette Salley, recently appointed to work with the Protestant Reformed Church in Guadeloupe and Martinique

Mr. Zoltan and Ms. Barbara Szucs, completing their service with the Reformed Church in Hungary

Mr. Bruce VanVoorhis, serving with the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCA's in Hong Kong

Mr. Moos encouraged everyone to become a Haystack Society member and continue building the global household of faith, with Christ as the cornerstone.

**13-GS-09 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice without vote by consensus for the duration of General Synod to these mission personnel.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

1. Everyone is invited to join General Synod on social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
2. Pick up your scarf and take the pledge against bullying in the Exhibit Hall.
3. Please thank the following sponsors who have helped make this General Synod possible: Our Church's Wider Mission, The United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund, the Retirement Housing Foundation and the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund. We will now watch a short video from Our Church's Wider Mission.

## **7. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION AND RECESS**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. Quinn Caldwell and Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock for theological reflection and advised that following this reflection, we will move into worship, after which General Synod will be in recess until Saturday morning.

## **8. WORSHIP**

The sermon for the evening worship was given by the Rev. Neichelle Guidry Jones, Associate Pastor to Young Adults at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois.

### **Saturday Morning, June 29, 2013**

#### **Third Plenary Session**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called the Third Plenary Session to order.

### **2. SPEAKOUTS!**

Mr. Holeman recognized the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Dianne Roberts (MICH) asked that the Pine Ridge Reservation's sixteen-year relationship with the United Church of Christ be remembered.
2. Marja Coons-Torn and Betsy Bruhas (PC) spoke about the Scarf Project representing anti-bullying.
3. Jeannette Brown (CAC) promoted her book on African-American Women Chemists.
4. Cleoplace Mukeba (VT) talked about the crisis in the Congo and issues of women being raped.
5. Shannon Gorres (KO) spoke about multiple partnership persons and sex-positive dialogue.
6. Steven Hamilton (PSE) discussed the need for a new conference minister in the Penn Southeast Conference.
7. Bob Thompson (SOC) invited everyone to attend the Faithful and Welcoming

Churches sponsored dinner.

8. Jan Griesinger reminded everyone of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March on Washington August 24 for the National Action Network.
9. Thom Haines (WCM) spoke about mountain top mining in Guatemala and the October 17 screening of the film “Gold Fever.”

Mr. Holeman thanked the participants and advised that the next SpeakOut! will be Monday morning.

### **3. COLLEGIUM REPORT**

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on the Collegium of Officers for their report.

Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, included in his comments that “our journey of testifying to the deeds of Jesus Christ in the more than fifty years since our founding General Synod has been at times glorious and uplifting, and at times painful and revealing. Yet we have persisted in pursuing that oneness which unites us while holding as holy all the diversities which could tear us apart, believing, as we affirm in our Statement of Faith, that God promises to all who trust God forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace. We know that God is still speaking – speaking to us and speaking through us. We will lean together into the future with our BIGS – our bold and inspirational goals.”

Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, stated that “you are the peace-makers, heart-menders and world-shapers whose witness we are working so hard to share with the world. We use all the media we can muster to proclaim the good news of what you are doing. All of us together make the bold public voice of the United Church of Christ heard in our communities and around the world.”

Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, advised that “we have reconfigured our staff in the national setting into new teams, which will focus on new and renewing church development and assessment, and on faith formation. In collaboration with our Conferences, we will seek partnerships in both fundraising as well as for resource and leadership support to plant new churches, to help congregations effectively assess where they are, and to meet the spiritual needs of our members. We are aggressively raising funds to make this happen.”

Mr. James Moos, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, said “there is a Chinese Proverb that says, ‘Tell me, and I forget. Show me, and I remember. Involve me and I understand.’ This bold, inspirational goal is steeped in a similar belief that we are better disciples of Christ when we are not only telling our faith story, but also showing, involving and engaging one another in the following of Jesus. In partnership with our seminaries, we are looking at ways to extend theological education through online courses, not just for those in discernment and in ministry, but also for all who are interested in such education. We also take our relationship with our global partners very seriously. We learn valuable lessons of faith as they witness to their response to God’s calling to proclaim the gospel to all the world.”

Ms. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, quoted a French politician named Alexandre Ledru-Rollin saying “There go my people. I must find out where they are going so I can lead them.” Ms. Jaramillo continued by saying, “Leadership in the church is much like that. Our work is largely to keep up with you and with what you need in

order to effectively change lives and communities. We want to keep looking to our future, and to identifying and supporting excellent leaders who represent the full diversity of who we seek to be as a church in this rapidly changing world. We want to diversify the pool of candidates who are ready and experienced to take on significant leadership roles such as Conference Ministry, national setting ministry and wider church ministry. One way we plan to create this wealth of leaders is through a Stillspeaking Leadership Institute, which is currently being developed. We are beautiful – and precious in God’s heart. Thank you for your gifts of leadership!”

Mr. Black concluded the report by saying “Please let us know your thoughts and offer your suggestions to us. This is part of the cost and joy of our discipleship. Together, we are taking our Bold, Inspirational Goals out into the world.”

Mr. Holeman thanked the Collegium members for their report.

#### **4. RE-NOMINATION AND SPEECH OF GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT**

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chair of the Executive Council, to nominate the Reverend Geoffrey Black for another term as General Minister and President.

Ms. Lowes introduced the Reverend Geoffrey Black as the nominee for General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Black expressed gratitude for the many ways he has been received and supported in his ministry, especially from those in Conference ministry and his Collegium colleagues.

His comments focused on hoped for change and adaptive change. “These elements of change are related and of major importance to the church universal and more specifically the United Church of Christ. Hoped for change takes place over time and is a forward movement. Adaptive change is what is called for when the context has already changed and there is a need to make a change in your life or in your institution in order to continue to fulfill your mission or purpose. Adaptive change enables us to continue to seek hoped for change and at its heart, the church exists to pursue hoped for change. We must make adaptive change in order to continue to fulfill our purpose. That is to both embody and to realize the realm of God on earth. If elected to a second term, I intend to continue working with all of you to move our church in all of its settings to be a church that is relevant and responsive to God’s call and God’s vision, which is our hoped for change. And that is:

God’s vision for peace and freedom from violence, oppression and all forms of human exploitation

God’s vision for freedom from poverty

God’s vision for equal justice and full inclusion for all of God’s children

God’s vision for the earth and all of creation

God’s vision for spiritual and physical health, wholeness

Finally, I want to suggest to you that although we often engage in church as an institution, the reality is the church of Jesus Christ is a living and dynamic reality. The body of Christ is a people, a living body growing and at its best, on a mission to realize hoped for change. Please remember, we are still in this thing together as we think, pray, worship, serve, give and live the beloved community as we seek its fulfillment on earth as it is in heaven.”



Mr. Holeman thanked Mr. Black for his comments.

**5. CELEBRATION OF NEW AND RENEWING CONGREGATIONS**

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries, and Mr. David Schoen, Team Leader of Congregational Vitality and Discipleship, to lead the celebration of new congregations.

Mr. Schoen reported that since the last General Synod, the United Church of Christ has welcomed forty-seven new churches. Mr. Guess introduced members from some of the new, renewing and affiliating churches.

**6. CELEBRATION OF CHHSM SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY**

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. Bryan Sickbert, President of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, to make a special presentation.

Mr. Sickbert moved the adoption of the statement of commendation from the Executive Council:

**13-GS-10 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the statement of commendation Celebrating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of CHHSM.

**CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CHHSM**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) of the United Church of Christ is to sustain and advance the work of healing and service as a ministry of the church of Jesus Christ embodied in its member ministries, the UCC and the church universal; and

WHEREAS, while there is a rich history of commitment to and recognition of charitable institutions in the UCC's predecessor bodies dating back to 1846; and

WHEREAS, the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries traces its organizational history to 1938; and is, therefore, celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, marking 75 years of faithfully responding to human need in the name of Jesus Christ;

NOW THEREFORE, the Twenty-Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ gratefully celebrates the commitment, servant- leadership and visionary service provided by the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and its member ministries; and further,

Honors past and present executives, staff and volunteers of CHHSM and CHHSM member ministries throughout the country for compassionately and effectively responding to a broad spectrum of human need on behalf of all members of the United Church of Christ; and further, Commends the work of CHHSM member ministries to the members and congregations of the United Church of Christ and recognizes with gratitude CHHSM's collaborative commitment to health and human service mission in covenant with congregations, Associations, Conferences and the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.

## **7. CELEBRATION OF THE WILMINGTON 10**

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Ms. Yvonne Delk, former Executive Director of the Office for Church in Society, and Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, former Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice.

Forty years after they were convicted by a jury of firebombing a grocery store in Wilmington, North Carolina, civil rights activists who became known as the “Wilmington 10” were pardoned on December 31, 2012 by outgoing North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue. Ms. Delk and Ms. Jackson wrote a brief version of the story of the Wilmington 10, and in doing so, they realized that there were lessons to be learned from that episode and that time in the life of the United Church of Christ. One that stands out is the fact that every generation must take the risk and do this justice work for itself. Ms. Jackson presented Mr. Benjamin Chavis, one leader who has not been afraid to take the risk on behalf of justice and liberation.

Mr. Chavis thanked the United Church of Christ, and celebrated that after forty years of struggle, the first woman governor of North Carolina issued a pardon for the Wilmington 10.

## **8. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Mr. Holeman called on Ms. Rith Nakashima Brock and Mr. Quinn Caldwell for theological reflections.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

1. Following this morning’s plenary, we have a lot of activity throughout the afternoon – service projects, workshops, Festival on the Marina Green, and an opportunity to meet candidates Black, Guess and Jaramillo.
2. Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon and her daughter Toshi Reagon will be on stage tonight for a concert entitled “This Could Be Heaven.”
3. For those who have purchased tickets to the Testimony! Gala Luncheon, please proceed to level two to the Grand Ballroom following this plenary.
4. We realize there is a bit of an issue with the shuttles and we are working with that and hope to improve the service.

## **10. MARIA HINOJOSA AND RECESS**

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Ms. Linda Jaramillo to introduce the guest speaker, Ms. Maria Hinojosa, journalist, anchor and author. Ms. Hinojosa was the first Latina to be employed by National Public Radio and by CNN. Ms. Hinojosa’s life work has been dedicated to making the invisible visible by telling the stories of those whose voices are not heard. She is founder and President of Futuro Media Group, a non-profit organization supporting a new generation of multicultural journalists. Futuro is committed to journalism that matters – balanced, truthful and revealing.

Following Ms. Hinojosa’s speech, Mr. Holeman declared the General Synod to be in recess.

## **11. MS. BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON AND MS. TOSHI REAGON CONCERT**

Ms. Bernice Johnson Reagon of Sweet Honey and the Rock and her daughter, Ms. Toshi Reagon, presented a musical concert Saturday evening.

**Sunday, June 30, 2013**

### **COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**

General Synod committees were in session in the morning and early afternoon, recommending on the disposition of resolutions brought before Synod.

### **WORSHIP**

The sermon at the evening worship was given by the Rev. Martin B. Copenhauer, Senior Pastor of Village Church United Church of Christ, Wellesley, MA.

### **HEARINGS**

Hearings on the budget, the Nominating Committee process and the Affirmation of Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries were in session in the evening.

**Monday Morning, July 1, 2013**

### **Fourth Plenary Session**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator Libby Tigner called the Fourth Plenary Session to Order.

#### **2. SPEAKOUTS!**

Ms. Tigner called on the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Carl Goodwin Moore (ME) spoke about turning back the tide of climate change. Visit the Mission 4/1 Earth booth in the exhibit hall.
2. Earl Williams (OH) reported Mr. Everett Parker is 101 years old and a prior Chair of the Executive Council. He was a bold public voice holding the media accountable. Join [uccmediajustice.org](http://uccmediajustice.org) in the fast from media violence September 15-21.
3. Bethany Joy and Julia BeBrell (MICH) requested delegates take the "Beyond the Scarf" pledge seriously.
4. Celestine Brooks (PSE) stated Lancaster Theological Seminary has transformed her spiritually and prepared her well for ministry.
5. Matt Deal (PWC) reported the Penn West Conference is searching for a conference minister. We are 105 churches that care deeply about our communities and mission.
6. Carl Goodwin-Moore (ME) requested delegates please support victims and restorative justice.

7. Ann Pomeroy (CA NV, S) said the Sacred Dance Guild has been in existence for fifty years. For information check [www.sacreddanceguild.org](http://www.sacreddanceguild.org)
8. Ken Bickel (IOWA) asked everyone to be a bold public voice, demand justice, love your brothers and sisters. Christians need to speak boldly about gun control.
9. Dawn Garrett-Larson (NH) is writing a book about small church ministry and looking for a publisher. Contact: [book.smallchurchministry@gmail.com](mailto:book.smallchurchministry@gmail.com)
10. Thea Mateu (CA NV, S) invited everyone to the young adult ministry event after worship.

Ms. Tigner advised the next SpeakOut! will be this afternoon during Plenary 5. The sign-up for that SpeakOut! will be immediately following this Plenary.

### **3. MOMENT OF MODERATOR PRIVILEGE**

Ms. Tigner took a moment of Moderator privilege stating “As we celebrate the Supreme Court’s decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act and to vacate Proposition 8, we are not overlooking the tragedy of the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act. Delegates from COREM, the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, as well as members of boards and conference delegations have been working to create an actionable piece of business to bring before this body.”

Ms. Tigner then had the delegates do a “clicker practice” with their voting devices.

Edwin Higginbottom (PC) requested that the number of votes, not percentages, be shown on the background screen. Ms. Tigner replied that because we require percentages to approve actions, we will continue to show the percentage as well as total number of votes cast.

### **4. NOMINATION AND SPEECH OF CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES.**

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Carol Williams-Swoope, Chair of Local Church Ministries, who introduced Mr. J. Bennett Guess, candidate for Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an officer of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Guess advised we are creating a new data center and church loan fund which will give us new opportunities and deepen the vitality of our local churches. He has traveled to thirty-two of our thirty-eight conferences and engaged in conversations with thousands of members. He witnessed United Church of Christ members at the front lines of justice issues. The volume of our United Church of Christ is far from being muted or extinguished. God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but God gave us a spirit of power and love.

Ms. Tigner thanked Mr. Guess for his comments and reminded delegates that the elections for all three Collegium candidates will be held later in this Plenary.

### **5. BUDGET PRESENTATION AND VOTE**

Ms. Tigner stated that one of the constitutional responsibilities of the General Synod is to vote on the adoption of the National Basic Support Allocation Base and Allocation Percentages for

the next biennium. Before doing that, however, she called on Ms. Kathy Houston, Chief Financial Officer for the United Church of Christ, to provide The Finance Report (Appendix H) and offer some projections about what lies ahead.

Moderator Tigner thanked Ms. Houston and asked if delegates had questions.

John Dorhauer (SW) took a moment of personal privilege to state that last night nineteen firefighters were killed. He invited the delegates and visitors to lift those firefighters and their families up in their prayers.

Q: Kevin Manz (EC) The financial report is clear that there were a couple of recommendations. What changes would be made to administration and what would they cost?

A: With changes in governance and bylaws, Ms. Houston stated she will meet with the Collegium to discuss the impact of changes. Costs have been discussed with our auditors and our costs are generally higher than those for other not-for-profit organizations. As we continue to evolve into the new structure, Ms. Houston feels we will be better able to move closer to that of other not-for-profits.

Q: Meredith Jackson (LCM) How might we move to a more acceptable rate draw on our endowment?

A: Ms. Houston replied that over a ten-year history our draw has been 6.98%. The new Finance and Endowment Committee will have to closely review the draw rates. We will be in a state of flux as the new committee does its work.

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Jean Avison, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Council, to present the actions necessary for the adoption of the National Basic Support Allocation Base and Allocation Percentages for the next biennium.

Ms. Avison moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the General Synod adopt a National Basic Support Allocation base of \$6.304 million and \$6.017 million for the budget years 2014 and 2015.

She pointed out that the allocation base voted for 2012 and 2013 was \$7.1 and \$6.8 million respectively per year. She also reminded delegates that the work done hosting and supporting general synods, developing church-wide initiatives, the search and call process for pastors, supporting missionaries, justice work, ongoing work in evangelism and youth ministries, and the Franklinton Center are all supported through our Churches Wider Mission. Leadership of the Covenanted Ministries continues to revision the programmatic life of the national setting and seeks to grow the funds available to the national and wider church setting.

**13-GS-11 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the National Basic Support Allocation base of \$6.304 million and \$6.017 million for the budget years 2014 and 2015.

Ms. Avison then moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the General Synod delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Churches Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2014-2015 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board. She then spoke to the motion.

**13-GS-12 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2014-2015 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Moderator Tigner stated that Committees are allocated approximately fifteen minutes in which to report to the General Synod. She reminded the delegates of the microphone layout and function.

Bill Sterrett (EC) requested the moderator read the total number of votes cast and Ms. Tigner agreed to do that.

Ms. Tigner thanked the Committee Process Team Ms. Susan Henderson (CAC), Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK) and Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN) and the Team Leader Mr. David Anderson (PNW). She then asked the Committee Chairs to stand and be recognized and thanked all of them for their hard work and diligence.

## **7. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO REPUDIATE THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY WHICH AUTHORIZED THE GENOCIDE OF NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE THEFT OF NATIVE LANDS.**

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Brian Burke, Chairperson of Committee 1, for that committee's report. Mr. Burke moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery Which Authorized the Genocide of Native Peoples and the Theft of Native Lands. He then spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

David Felton (SD) advised the South Dakota Conference voted unanimously to support this issue.

Enno Limvere (SD) spoke in favor of the motion.

Richard Steele (WIS) stated he was born in the United States and feels he is also a Native American. We're all immigrants in this country.

Roseanne Dyce Anderson (JWM) asked for a 100% vote from delegates.

Kaitlyn Lemley (KO) spoke in favor of the motion.

Christopher Jenkins (MASS) asked that the committee chairperson elaborate on how this would play out.

James Moos (WCM) spoke in favor of the motion and committed WCM to implementation.

Aletha Kaohi (HI) requested support for the motion.

**13-GS-13 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery Which Authorized the Genocide of Native Peoples and the Theft of Native Lands.

## **CALLING FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO REPUDIATE THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY WHICH AUTHORIZED THE GENOCIDE OF NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE THEFT OF NATIVE LANDS**

WHEREAS, from the Crusades through the 16th century the Roman Catholic Church

promulgated several Papal Bulls which authorized and justified the destruction, killing and appropriating lands of indigenous peoples. These Papal Bulls formulated the theological base for what became the tragic genocide of American Indians; and

WHEREAS, Protestant churches beginning as early as 1609 when English clergy in Jamestown developed a coherent narrative that brought together a legal rationalization for invading America, debasing American Indians and made a Christian commitment to convert Indians – a commitment which they never delivered; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court in 1823 in *Johnson vs. McIntosh* incorporated into American law the Doctrine by claiming the United States inherited the American conquest from the English; and

WHEREAS, 1845 was the first time the phrase Manifest Destiny was used to affirm that the USA was called by Providence to dominate the continent for the free development of America's inevitable growth. Manifest Destiny grew out of, and was based on, the Doctrine of Discovery; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations adopted a resolution entitled United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 requesting nations to affirm, it took the United States four years before it signed it; and

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches called upon its member churches to adopt its Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery Impact on Indigenous Peoples, the UCC has not. The Episcopal Church and the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church have done so.

WHEREAS, there is a growing awareness and concern in the United States about the Doctrine, the United Church of Christ, given its commitment to justice, has not yet participated in a formal manner; and

WHEREAS, not only has the Doctrine never been repudiated, court decisions against Indians have been made within the past several decades based on the Doctrine.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares and confesses that the doctrine has been and continues to be a shameful part of United States and our Church's history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins with its ecumenical partners to explore ways to compensate American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians for lands and resources that were stolen and are still being stolen and which are now the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that Justice and Witness Ministries join with the Council for American Indian Ministry and others to prepare educational materials for the churches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the substantive study materials developed by JWM and CAIM be presented to the Thirtieth General Synod with suggestions for how the UCC might undertake various forms of action. The Episcopal Church provides a model for such follow through.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United States government to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

### **FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities of the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

Julia Swayne (CA NV, N) requested the order of resolutions be announced as they are known to the moderator.

## **8. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS**

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Barbara Ferguson Kamara, Chairperson of Committee 13, to present that committee's report. Ms. Kamara moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod approve the resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants. She then spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Felix Villanueva, (CA NV, S) called for approval of the resolution saying immigrants are already productive members of society.

Arthur Cribbs (CA NV, S) said we're violating our own values and ideology if we do not approve this resolution.

David Stuart and Shirley Fleming (ILL) moved to amend Line 1434 by inserting the following: . . . violence; (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of . . .

The motion was seconded.

**13-GS-14 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to amend Line 1434 by inserting the following: . . . violence; (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of . . .



Discussion resumed on the original motion.

Sylvia Jones (EC) reported that representatives from the YWCA across the nation spent the day on Capitol Hill meeting with Representatives and Senators to urge immigration reform.

Ms. Jones urged everyone to vote in favor of the resolution and to contact members of the House of Representatives.

Sheila Angerer (SC) said of course we need immigration reform – it's what America stands for.

Samuel Conde (FLA) works with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. This is an issue that affects thousands of people across America.

Dennis Alger (CPC) appreciated the amendment and encouraged a positive vote. We are aware of the fear in which many of our neighbors live.

Linda Jaramillo (JWM) commended the committee's work and supported the resolution. She appealed to everyone to go home and accept the responsibility to become a welcoming community and contact government representatives.

**13-GS-15 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants, as amended.

**SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM  
AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS**

WHEREAS, immigration law in the United States (U. S.) is a federal, not a state, responsibility, and

WHEREAS, America's current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect our denominational or national values; and

WHEREAS, worker visa programs must comply with U.S. wage, hour, and other labor standards, including portability of visas so that workers can change jobs; and maintain the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of immigration law should affirm our nation's core legal values including due process, transparency, fairness, accountability, and proportionality; and

WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that both respects our nation's right to control its borders and the human rights of immigrants, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United States has prospered because of the contributions of hardworking migrants, immigrants, and aspiring citizens; and keeping families together not only is inherent to our faith values, but is also good for the economy because families are a base of support that increase worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and,

there is a need to reduce the processing times of three to twenty years that keep families separated from their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has many DREAM Act eligible youth who were brought here as children, know this country as their only home, were educated here, and have shown their contribution to our congregations and communities; and

WHEREAS, immigration enforcement has deported a record 409,849 in 2012 fiscal year including 95,000 parents of U.S. citizens in 2011; and

WHEREAS, citizenship is a symbol of full societal membership and social participation that should be encouraged and supported with just and fair laws and procedures; and

WHEREAS, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform must include a realistic pathway to citizenship for all hardworking, taxpaying, aspiring citizens who live in the U.S. (including young people who have grown up in the United States) if they meet reasonable requirements; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches our nation's labor needs and is structured to protect the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the 113th Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that addresses (1) earned legalization with a path to citizenship; (2) updated future flow of immigrants for workers and unification of families; (3) enactment of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act as part of a comprehensive immigration reform; (4) protection of workers' rights, including agricultural workers; (5) placement of humanitarian values at the center of enforcement policies; (6) protection of refugees and migrant survivors of violence; and (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of Operation Streamline, stopping the construction of the southern border fence, and limiting additional immigration border patrol agents on the southern border.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the President of the United States, U.S. Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages General Synod delegates to deliver a copy of this resolution to members of their respective (state) General Assembly, Governor of the state, (state) Speaker of the House, and President of the (state) Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages congregations to further engage in educational work on immigration from a faith perspective, participate in border delegations and work towards making your congregation an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon United Church of Christ members to take action to help pass compassionate comprehensive immigration reform by (1) getting involved with a local coalition, (2) forming

relationships with immigrants, (3) joining advocacy delegations with your local Representative or Senator and (4) mobilizing congregants for vigils, actions, marches, interfaith services and other local or national activities on this issue.

### **FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution (or Other Formal Motion) will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

### **9. MUSIC/STRETCH BREAK**

Moderator Tigner invited the General Synod musicians to lead the body in some singing and movement to reinvigorate everyone.

### **10. RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE AND HEALING TO OUR VETERANS**

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called on Mr. Charles Kuthuru, Chairperson of Committee 9, to present the next item of business.

Mr. Kuthuru moved the adoption of the resolution To Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to our Veterans. He ceded his time to Sam Buehrer (OHIO) who spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Brynn Smallwood Garcia (CONN) spoke in favor of the motion and of the first responders to Sandy Hook Elementary School who are members of her congregation. She also expressed gratitude to everyone who also suffers from PTSD.

Sharon Prestemon (EC) serves on the Board of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS and indicated that not only are many of our veterans not in churches, they are not in homes.

William Feld (CAC) moved to strike the word “in” on Line 1315. The amendment was accepted by the Moderator.

A delegate urged approval and said we need to act, not only approve this resolution.

Jim Clausing (OHIO) spoke in favor of the resolution. Mr. Clausing has a son who served in Iraq and has dealt with the needs expressed in the resolution.

Jamytta Bell (SC) is a veteran service officer and pleaded that delegates don’t just vote, but act.

**13-GS-16 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution To Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to our Veterans, as amended.

**TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE AND HEALING  
TO OUR VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the recent wars of The Persian Gulf (1990 – 1991), Operation Provide Comfort (1991 – 1996), Somalia Intervention (1992 – 1995), Bosnia (1995 – 2004), NATO Air Campaign Yugoslavia (1999), Afghanistan 2001 – present, and Iraq 2003 – 2011 used regular military forces, activation of Reserves military, and the Federalization of state's National Guard units experiencing multiple deployments our citizen – soldiers have returned to civilian communities that are unaware of the effects of military service.

WHEREAS, the political landscape has shifted since World War II and military objectives and purpose have become increasingly abstract veterans suffer from a crisis of purpose which affects the individual as well as our nation.

WHEREAS, political objects are nebulous and the military is used as political “muscle” on the global stage our service personnel are sometimes left feeling used and betrayed by the society they swore an allegiance to protect and defend.

WHEREAS, these persons are our brothers and sisters, parents, neighbors, students, employees, and cohorts we have an obligation as followers of Jesus to be sensitive to their needs.

WHEREAS, the therapists within the Veterans Administration are now speaking about the “moral injury” of military service the moral injury is a spiritual and soul issue and needs to be addressed by The Church.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ extends gracious hospitality and welcome to all people from every walk of life it behooves the United Church of Christ to become sensitive to the effects of military service and accept their responsibility to protect the veteran upon their return home.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges all of the United Church of Christ congregations to express compassionate care and healing ministry to all our veterans and their families through education and the development of sensitivity to the issues of soul healing and spiritual care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages “local church” awareness and reaching out to local Veterans Administration, Veterans Service Commission, support of Veterans Courts, through the compassion that is rooted in the teachings and example of Jesus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the Office of the Local Church Ministries to partner with the Soul Repair Center of Brite Divinity School in the development of resources for use by our military chaplains, Veterans Administrations Chaplains and our local congregations to express compassionate care and a healing ministry to our veterans and their families.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges the members and local churches of the United Church of Christ to serve veterans with healing care beyond established medical and military protocols and seek ways to welcome our veterans home, through worship, fellowship, pastoral care and advocacy to reintegrate them in our communities, and help to bring peace to veterans, their families and the world.

### **FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with the appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ will determine the implementing body.

### **11. RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called on Ms. Brittini Badger, Chairperson of Committee 14 to present the next item of business.

Ms. Badger moved the adoption of the Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada. She then spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Ron Nicholas (FLA) urged support and said his home church is an unofficial southern home for Canadians during the winter months.

Bill Thwing (PW) strongly supports the resolution.

Mike Denton (JWM) is very excited about this resolution and urges support.

Jake Joseph (JWM) also supports the resolution.

Paul Clay (CA NV,S) also supports the resolution.

Hyo-Jung Kim (EC) urged support.

**13-GS-17 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada.

### **RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

WHEREAS, the gospel of Jesus Christ unites the followers of Christ in a single community of faith and compels us to make our unity visible so “that the world may believe...” John 17:21;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada are united and uniting churches with multiple denominational streams which identify them and shape their Christian self-understanding;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ have common commitment to the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ and to the one ecumenical movement;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ have common Congregational and Reformed heritage and sit in common witness to mission, worship, theological conversation and commitment to justice;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada have engaged in dialogue and have identified similarities and differences that can commonly strengthen who they are and their witness in North America as united and united churches;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the twenty-ninth General Synod United Church of Christ recognize the United Church of Canada as an ecumenical partner;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ mutually commit to forming the United Church Ecumenical Partnership Committee, an ecumenical partnership committee of ten (10) persons – five from each communion;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church Ecumenical Partnership Committee brings back to the thirtieth General Synod recommendations for further steps and activities to bring the two communions toward full communion and visible unity.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

## **12. RESOLUTION ON RESTRUCTURING OF CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. Darryl Cruz, Chairperson of Committee 11, to present the committee's resolution.

Mr. Cruz moved the adoption of the resolution Restructuring of Conference Boundaries and spoke to the motion.

### Discussion:

Geoff Brace (JWM) spoke in support of the resolution, stating we are at a critical point in our middle judicatories.

Dan Furman (MICH) spoke against the resolution and disapproved of the word “sustainable” future in Line 1369. He prefers a thriving future.

George Peters (RI) believes there needs to be a conversation among covenant partners involved and this action invites that conversation.

Lisa Gaul (SC) moved to change “sustainable” to “thriving” in Line 1369. The motion was seconded. The Executive Council liaison requested instead of changing sustainable to thriving, that “thriving” be added after sustainable. This was accepted by the Committee Chairperson.

Galen Russell moved to include “and future General Synods if necessary” in Line 1379. The motion was seconded.

The Committee Chairperson rejected the motion on the grounds that this was discussed in committee and not approved.

David Stewart (ILL) agrees with the proposer of the amendment.

Bertrice Wood (OHIO) spoke against the amendment. There are already conversations going on. The committee felt we need something done now.

**13-GS-18 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to defeat the amendment to include “and future General Synods if necessary” in Line 1379.

Discussion on the original motion:

Marc Stewart (MONT-NO. WY) spoke to the resolution

Tim Ahrens (OHIO) called the question. The motion was seconded.

**13-GS-19 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to call the question on the original motion.

**13-GS-20 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Restructuring Conference Boundaries, as amended.

### **RESTRUCTURING CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod invites each of the thirty-eight conferences and their covenant partners (such as associations, local churches and authorized ministers) to engage in a prayerful process of discernment in order to assess what they may need to assure a sustainable and thriving future for their ongoing missional responsibilities as well as effective ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod calls upon the Collegium of Officers to work collaboratively and pastorally with any and all conferences and their covenant partners in a mutual process of discernment in order to develop viable proposals designed to revitalize conferences, share resources among them, and/or reconfigure conference boundaries in ways faithful to our church’s calling and which make practical sense; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any such proposals from conferences and a report from the Collegium will be transmitted to the Thirtieth General Synod for further deliberation and approval as necessary.

### **13. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called on Ms. Carol Williams-Swoope, Chairperson of Local Church Ministries, who moved that the Rev. J. Bennett Guess be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a full four-year term as the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

**13-GS-21 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod calls the Rev. J. Bennett Guess by election to a full four-year term as the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Bonds then called on Ms. Alice Harper-Jones, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, who moved that the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year term as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

**13-GS-22 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod calls the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo by election to a four-year term as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Bonds called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved the Rev. Geoffrey Black be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year term as the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

**13-GS-23 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod calls the Rev. Geoffrey Black by election to a four-year term as the General Minister and President and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Assistant Moderator Bonds asked Mr. James Moos and Mr. Mark Clark, the other members of the existing Collegium, to join Mr. Black, Mr. Guess and Ms. Jaramillo on stage. Mr. Clark, Ms. Lowes, Ms. Williams-Swoop and Ms. Harper-Jones led the General Synod in prayer.

### **14. CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF W. MARK CLARK**

Ms. Bonds led the General Synod in a celebration of the ministry of Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, stating that as the new national structure moves to a Collegium of four officers, the position of Associate General Minister is eliminated, and the new role of Chief Administrative Officer, a staff position comes into being and that Mr. W. Mark Clark has been hired for the position.

Ms. Bonds stated that General Minister and President, Mr. Geoffrey Black, has observed that “We certainly celebrate that Mark will stay with us in the new role of Chief Administrative Officer. Ms. Bonds commended Mr. Clark for his creative administrative skills, his life-long membership in the United Church of Christ, and the many positions he has held over the years. She then invited Mr. Clark, the Collegium of Officers, and Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to the stage. All joined in the litany of release of Mr. Clark as an Officer of the Church and a blessing in his new role.



## **15. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Ms. Bonds invited Mr. Quinn Caldwell to the stage for a time of reflection.

## **16. MOMENTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Ms. Bonds recognized Ms. Lynda Bigler (LCM) who advised she was not able to read the screens in order to participate in the recent ceremony due to a visual impairment and she was ignored at a microphone prior to the theological reflection. Ms. Bonds apologized to Ms. Bigler, stating she did not see the raised sign at the microphone.

Mr. Patrick Morris ((UCC Military Chaplains) requested that the body pause for prayer for those families of the nineteen firefighters mentioned earlier in the meeting who lost their lives.

## **17. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Bonds invited Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark to the stage for announcements.

1. Please see Dick Sparrow to sign up for the next SpeakOut!
2. Communion ware is available for purchase in the Local Arrangements Office.
3. If you're interested in participating in a one-mile walk regarding deportation, meet on the promenade.
4. Be sure to join us on social media by using hashtag UCCGS29 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. See page 4 in your program book.
5. Once again, we thank the four platinum sponsors of this year's General Synod: Our Church's Wider Mission, the United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund, the Retirement Housing Foundation and the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund. A short video was to be shown from the church Building and Loan Fund, but it was inoperable.

## **18. RECESS**

Ms. Bonds declared the Fourth Plenary to be complete and the General Synod in recess.

### **Monday Afternoon, July 1, 2013 Fifth Plenary Session**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called the Fifth Plenary Session to order.

#### **2. SPEAKOUTS!**

Mr. Holeman recognized the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Rebecca Johnson (AUCE) reminded everyone that education is critical for the survival of our church. To assure faith, let's put our money where our mouth is.
2. Dianne Roberts (MICH) thanked the volunteers behind the curtain and the women beside the stage.
3. Tim Ahrens (OHIO) reported he is here to honor Dr. Washington Gladden who passed away 95 years ago. The Episcopal Church recognizes him as a saint of the church. He was a prophet of social gospel.

4. Kent Steward (HI) stated the Waiola Church is celebrating its 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Waiola founded the first high school west of the Rocky Mountains and its profile for senior minister is on its website.
5. Kathryn Murd (PNW) advocated for Young Adult Service Communities. If you are twenty-one to thirty-five and want to go to the edge, there are three sights accepting year-long applicants in Seattle, Philadelphia and Carlsbad. Go to [ucc.org/volunteers](http://ucc.org/volunteers).
6. Rona Kinsley (VT) stated the unstable Tar Sands oil pipeline is more than 50 years old and is threatening the New England environment. Go to [350.org](http://350.org) for more information.
7. Diana Maddshi (CA NV, N) called on everyone to contact their representatives and the President to urge them not to cut Social Security.
8. Mike Gose and Marlene Helgemo (CAIM) are seeking churches and individuals to join in service and leadership.
9. Dinah Gomez (NEB) invited everyone to service without walls at Darkwood Brew, the on-line interactive worship service Sundays at 5 PM Central Time.
10. Natalie Renner (IK) reminded everyone of the importance of Outdoor Ministries. Camp changed her life and she encouraged youth to go to camp and invite their friends.

Mr. Holeman reminded everyone that the next SpeakOut! will be at the beginning of the next Plenary and sign-ups will be immediately following this Plenary session.

### **3. RESOLUTION URGING DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES**

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. Ralph Brown, Chairperson of Committee 6, to present the business of that committee.

Mr. Brown moved the adoption of the resolution Urging Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies and spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Jim Antal (MASS) stated this resolution is about faithful leadership and urged its passage.

Don Hart (UC Funds & EC) welcomed the urgency of this resolution and pledged to honor it.

Lacy Spencer and Alexandra Elison (MONT-NO. WY) expressed concerns. Fossil fuel and nuclear energy supply 90% of the earth's fuels. A lot of the population in the Montana-Northern Wyoming area work in the mining industry. Without a plan of job replacement, you're shutting down their entire livelihood.

Mark Doty (LCM) was involved in the petroleum industry, but has much sympathy with the resolution. Members of the industry work hard to feed their families. It's a complicated issue and will abstain from voting.

Ken Bickel (IOWA) moved to amend the resolution by changing the Title to "Urging Divestment -- Along with other Strategies -- From Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change." The motion was seconded.

The motion was received as a friendly amendment by the Committee Chairperson.

Additional Discussion:

Meredith Jackson (LCM) questioned the financial impact for those with money in United Church Funds. Mr. Hart replied the financial impact is unknown at this time, but will be studied and forwarded to investors.

Davida Foy Crabtree (MOMS) reported the Missouri Mid-South Conference has had a partnership with people in Columbia, South Africa where oil companies have built pipelines through their ancestral lands. She supports the resolution.

Cheyenne Elliott (IK) agreed with the idea of reducing fossil fuel, but not eliminating it. We still need electricity.

John Deckenback (CAC) stated it's a question of consistency and integrity. Let's put our money where our environmental commitments are. It's a step in the right direction. Let's support the intention of this resolution.

Mark Wampler (IOWA) stated income of the UCC is going down, meaning our product is bad or our product is not selling. We also need to divest from airlines.

David Gaewski (NY) reported after Superstorm Sandy, we in New York strategized on the response to this. Fossil fuel causes most of our natural catastrophes. The acidity of the Atlantic Ocean has increased 30% due to our use of fossil fuels.

Greg Larson (RM) advised many of our church members work in these fields. Urged a negative vote on the resolution. Without addressing the need for renewable energy, it's impractical.

Morgan Bates (PSE) who just turned seventeen, advised this resolution is crucial to her generation and future generations.

Miguel Frias (ILL) stated he's from a church without a lot of money. It's easy to say we have to step away from our conveniences, but we need to think of those small churches that do not have a lot of money because our policies do not include them. Think about the little people.

Charles Desmond (MASS) felt our earth is dying, primarily by fossil fuel companies. We need to do now what God is asking us to do which is to protect what God has given us.

A member of the Executive Council called the question and the motion was seconded.

Kelly Parrish Lucas (EC) requested clarification on Lines 1199 to 1206 regarding "best in class" companies. Jim Antal (MASS) responded that UC Funds and the Pension Boards will accept the responsibility to do research and set criteria as to which companies qualify for "best in class" and that, two years from now, will be eligible for investment. However, it is his personal notion that this is an oxymoron.

Michael Montgomery (ILL) questioned whether this is a Prudential Resolution or a Resolution of Witness. Assistant Moderator Holeman replied that it is a Resolution of Witness.

**13-GS-24 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end discussion on the resolution.

**13-GS-25 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution Urging Divestment-Along with other Strategies-from Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change.

**URGING DIVESTMENT – ALONG WITH OTHER STRATEGIES – FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ raises its prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our home and God’s gift for the future of all life, both human and all other life,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all Members, Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, Agencies, Associated, Affiliated and Covenanted Ministries (and their successor bodies) to —

- a) Commit to using a spectrum of strategies to reduce the use of fossil fuels, our carbon footprint, and our complicity with the fossil fuel industry
  - make lifestyle changes to reduce the use of fossil fuels in our lives, our homes, our businesses and our churches
  - demand action from legislators and advocate for the creation and enforcement of carbon-reducing laws
  - publicly witness to and create educational programs that highlight the dangers of climate change
  - engage in activities, boycotts, and shareholder actions with companies, up to and including divestment
- b) Make shareholder engagement on climate change an immediate, top priority for the next five years by:
  - demanding transparency regarding climate change legislation lobbying,
  - insisting that companies’ operations and products conform to achieve the goal of scientifically understood safe levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, and
  - requiring companies to examine and disclose their carbon assets that are at risk of being stranded in the event of a carbon tax or some other executive or legislative action.
- c) Seek out fossil-fuel free investment vehicles and call on both United Church Funds and the Pension Boards to create and promote an investment vehicle free of fossil fuel companies for qualified investors within 18 months.
- d) As a way to maintain the trajectory of accomplishments of the 4/1 Earth campaign, report updates on progress made and actions taken in the implementation of this resolution that will be sent to a national UCC database to be established immediately by the United Church of Christ Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon both United Church Funds and the Pension Boards to accomplish the following to the fullest extent allowable by applicable law –

- a) By Synod 2015, complete whatever research is necessary to identify “best in class” fossil fuel companies (if any); to report these findings to Synod in 2015, along with a plan whereby, by June 2018, none of either the Pension Boards nor UCF directly held assets will include holdings of either public equities or corporate bonds in fossil fuel companies except

those either the Pension Boards or UCF identifies as “best in class.” This research process should be conducted on a periodic basis and the research metrics used should continually reference the newest climate science as a permanent way to analyze fossil fuel companies. The Pension Boards and UCF should hold in their portfolios only those companies that they deem “best in class.”

- b) Report actions taken as a result of this research to the United Church of Christ Board on an annual basis to be shared with future General Synod delegates. These actions should always be compatible with a “just and sustainable world”, as identified by the Core Purpose of the United Church of Christ.
- c) Provide quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing research undertaken, progress made and actions taken in the implementation of this resolution to the national database created by the United Church of Christ Board. Whenever possible, communicate these actions to the media to hasten the revocation of the social license which the fossil fuel companies depend on to stay in business.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commits each of the next five General Synods to hold a hearing focusing on climate change; progress made by UCF, the Pension Boards, and other UCC entities to fulfill this resolution; and how the vocation of the church is and must change in the context of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to inform those fossil fuel companies of the passage and implementation of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to engage leaders of other religious traditions and relevant organizations to explore ways that they and their constituents might join the UCC in this action.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ remains profoundly concerned about the disproportionate impact climate change is already having on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries, the elderly and children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases, and recognizes the moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy plan in a way that is both just and compassionate.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

**4. ELECTIONS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD, THE MODERATOR AND ASSISTANT MODERATOR AND THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE.**

Moderator Libby Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod elect the thirty-six at-large nominees, as selected by the Nominating Committee and posted for delegate review since last February, for election to the United Church of Christ Board.

**13-GS-26 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to elect the thirty-six at-large nominees, as selected by the Nominating Committee and posted for delegate review since last February, for election to the United Church of Christ Board.

Ms. Lowes then moved the election of Mr. Brian Holeman as Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

**13-GS-27 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to elect Mr. Brian Holeman as Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

Ms. Lowes then moved the election of Ms. Sue Artt as Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

**13-GS-28 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to elect Ms. Sue Artt as Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

Moderator Tigner asked for affirmation of the Ex-Officio members of the United Church of Christ Board. These are sixteen members of the Board who will sit by virtue of the office they now hold. The list and the representative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was posted for review in May. This required a simple affirmation of members already elected by Synod, a Conference or Affiliated or Associated Ministry.

**13-GS-29 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to affirm the Ex-Officio members of the United Church of Christ Board.

Moderator Tigner then called on Mr. Bernard Wilson, Vice Chair of the Executive Council. Mr. Wilson announced that under provisions of the new structure the Nominating Committee has been reconstituted and those members elected today will serve staggered terms of two, four or six years. On behalf of the Executive Council, Mr. Wilson moved the election of the slate of candidates for election by the Twenty-ninth General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee.

**13-GS-30 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to elect the slate of candidates for election to the General Synod Nominating Committee.

Ms. Tigner thanked Mr. Wilson and congratulated the members of the Nominating Committee, the members of the United Church of Christ Board and the new Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

## **5. RESOLUTION ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE CARBON NEUTRAL**

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Sara Brace, Chairperson of Committee 2, to present the next item of business.

Ms. Sara Brace moved the resolution On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral. She then ceded her time to Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (ILL) to speak to the resolution.

**13-GS-31 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral.

### **ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE CARBON NEUTRAL**

WHEREAS, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all segments of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Church to address the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to humankind and, indeed, all of God's precious planet earth; and

WHEREAS, General Synod is on record regarding the mediation of climate change and in 2009 reaffirmed that position; and

WHEREAS, the building sector consumes nearly half (48.7%) of all energy produced in the United States and was responsible for nearly half of U.S. carbon emissions in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted the "2030 Challenge for City Buildings" in June 2006, a plan which, if supported at all levels of our nation, is designed to avert dangerous climate change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ acknowledge that our church buildings are significant contributors to climate change and to encourage congregations to take steps towards carbon neutrality by adopting the following church-based adaptations to the targets presented in Architecture 2030's 2030 Challenge:

- All churches are encouraged to conduct an energy audit.
- Buildings undergoing new construction and/or major renovations strive to be carbon neutral (operate with a net-zero use of fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting energy) by
  - reducing electricity and natural gas usage
  - generating on-site renewable power, and/or
  - purchasing renewable energy (suggested 20% maximum of total energy usage, in alignment with the standards of the 2030 Challenge).

Existing church buildings not undergoing major renovation at this time are encouraged to take steps to meet a fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting, energy consumption performance standard of at least 60% below the regional average for houses of worship or that building type.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local congregations be requested to encourage their members to meet the above standards in their own homes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that conferences and congregations be encouraged to continue this work beyond the building sector by initiating or continuing the Earthwise Congregation commitment.

### **FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

## **6. RESOLUTION ON RESISTING ACTIONS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY**

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Lessie Williams, Chairperson of Committee 10, to present the next item of business.

Ms. Williams moved the adoption of the resolution on Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society. She ceded her time to Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (ILL) who spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Emmery Groomes (SW) thanked all involved with the committee process and stated that words from conservatives regarding rape and abortion swayed his support.

Doyle Luckenbaugh (EC) spoke in favor of women's reproductive freedom and urged everyone to contact their state and federal representatives protesting restrictive legislation.

Susi Kawolics (OHIO) requested clarification on the title of the resolution.

Arthur Cribbs (CA NV, S) moved a friendly amendment to Line 1553 inserting "and urges from UCC" before conferences. The amendment was accepted by the Committee Chairperson.

Additional discussion:

Rebecca Castline (WIS) spoke in affirmation. This is not just a women's issue. We need to let women know that people of all genders of faith support this issue.

Amy Frenze (RI) offered a friendly amendment to change the title to "Resolution to Recognize and Address Gender Inequality and Discrimination."

Martha Jacobs (NY) expressed an issue with the fact that no women were added to the United Church of Christ leadership team. At the last General Synod, it was promised this issue would be looked into. Why didn't women apply for executive positions?



John Kendall (ILL) expressed sadness this is still being talked about and women are still being discriminated against.

David Stewart (ILL) indicated that the last General Synod voted to change the title of a resolution. Are we going to vote on the title change?

Moderator Tigner advised that the Parliamentarian ruled the title change motion out of order.

The vote is on the substance of the resolution, not the title.

Adam Isbitsky (MASS) moved to amend Line 1336 to change “between” to “among.”

**13-GS-32 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes by general consent to amend Line 1336 to change “between” to “among.”

**13-GS-33 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution on Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society.

### **RESISTING ACTIONS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY**

WHEREAS, previous General Synods of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the value and dignity of women in the church and society and called for an end to sexism and the consequences of patriarchy (1969, 1983, 1989, 1991, 1995); and

WHEREAS, recent and ongoing political conversation and legislative action across the country is leading to the loss of many of the significant advances toward full equality for women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on National Staff of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations, and Congregations to reaffirm the belief that societal distinctions which create an inferior-superior relationship among genders is contrary to the will of God; to bear witness to that belief by standing vigilant with and actively supporting women; to resist the reemerging cultural forces working to subjugate women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that recognizing that the political conversations and legislative actions often begin with groups that attribute their attempts to subjugate women to Christian beliefs, the Twenty-ninth Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the National staff of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations and Congregations to

- publicly address and challenge policies, ideologies, and theologies that promote the inferiority and subjugation of women
- proclaim the biblical vision of oneness and equality in Christ
- encourage and work with other denominations, ecumenical, and interfaith partners to do the same
- empower and resource conference, state and national UCC policy advocates to ensure legislation which assures women equal pay, a full range of health care choices and services, including Title X and Planned Parenthood, and recognizes a woman’s right to make decisions about her own reproductive health.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on National Staff of the United Church of Christ, and urges Conferences, Associations, and Congregations to recognize and address gender inequality and discrimination where they exist within the Church itself, in systems and communities in all expressions of the United Church of Christ. We call upon the Church to increase its efforts to model gender equality in all expressions of the United Church of Christ.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, advised the General Synod that the Collegium of Officers has considered the lack of diversity in the pool of candidates, particularly with regard to women. Our vision plan calls for diversity of leadership as a target in the future. A primary step was the creation of an Executive Associate position which Ms. Loey Powell now holds to assist in developing this. We have taken you seriously.

### **7. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS**

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Kent Siladi, Chairperson of the Cabinet of Conference Ministers, to recognize the new and retiring Conference Ministers.

On behalf of the Cabinet of Conference Ministers, Mr. Siladi recognized the following new Conference Ministers and those who have retired since the last General Synod.

Retired Conference Ministers:

- Tim Downs, Southeast Conference
- Karen Smith Sellers, Minnesota Conference
- David Moyer, Wisconsin Conference
- Wade Schemmel, Northern Plains Conference
- Randy Hyvonen, Montana Northern Wyoming Conference
- Tom Rehling, Rocky Mountain Conference
- Alan McLarty, Penn West Conference

New Conference Ministers:

- Marc Stewart, Montana Northern Wyoming Conference
- Edith Guffey, Kansas Oklahoma Conference
- Edward Davis, Southern Conference
- Keith Mills, Northern Plains Conference
- Campbell Lovett, Michigan Conference

Conference Ministers who have been elected, but will begin later this year:

Philip Hart, Ohio

Marc Wessels, South Dakota

Shari Prestemon, Minnesota Conference

## **8. FAITH IN / PETER KAGEYAMA SPEECH**

A short video was shown on The Faith In Project.

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Ann Poston, Director of Communications, who described the Faith In Project – a project that invites all of us to boldly proclaim our faith in a Stillspeaking God. She called everyone to live out that faith through mission and outreach. Ms. Poston introduced Mr. Peter Kageyama, an internationally recognized expert on community development and grassroots engagement. Mr. Kageyama is the author of *For the Love of Cities* which explores in detail the value of emotional engagement with our cities and how that connection is created and nurtured.

Mr. Kageyama asked “What do you love or hate about your city?” We need to address the system – build a loveable city that is safe and functional. This requires us to look at the problems in a different way and allows for improvisation. Interact with your environment. We have a tendency to over-think the solution. Sometimes simple solutions are best. Play is important to interpersonal relationships and our cities need more opportunities to play. Happy faces equal drawing people in and spending money. Think big and out of the box.

## **9. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Moderator Tigner again called on Mr. Quinn Caldwell for theological reflection.

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Tigner called on Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

1. If you've lost or found something, go to the General Synod office.
2. Donations for Outdoor Ministries can be made at [ucc.org/synod](http://ucc.org/synod) in honor of the carbon footprint resolution.
3. Please visit the exhibit hall, which closes tomorrow at noon.
4. The Church Building and Loan Fund video which did not work earlier will be shown now.

## **11. RECESS**

Ms. Tigner declared the Fifth Plenary to be complete and the General Synod to be in recess.

**Monday Evening, July 1, 2013**

**Sixth Plenary Session**

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called the Sixth Plenary Session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to order and opened the floor to SpeakOut! participants.

1. John Schluep (OHIO) issued a call for action for veteran's ministry. Website is warriorsjourneyhome.org.
2. Enno Limuere (SD) spoke about his local church membership.
3. Jennifer Austin (SE) announced that the Southeast Conference is searching for a Designated Conference Minister.
4. Gunnar Cerda (OHIO) urged everyone to contact their state legislators to adopt autism insurance parity.
5. Julie Peebles (SC) requested prayer for people protesting cuts to public education, mental health and unemployment benefits in North Carolina.
6. Alan Johnson (RM) thanked the United Church of Christ for sending him to a mental health conference at the White House. There were only seven faith-based organizations there. October 13 is Access Sunday. Join the movement.
7. Stephen Daniels (PC) stated we need to learn how to invite others into what we have found in the United Church of Christ.
8. Dona Roll (NY) thanked everyone for adopting the resolution for veterans. While in Long Beach, she met a waitress who volunteers at a homeless shelter. Buy a bath towel and give it to New Image, 401 Ocean Blvd., Suite 202.
9. Steve Craft (PW) asked everyone to join Flat Jesus on Facebook. Youth are sending Jesus around the world. Take a picture and post on Facebook. Also advised his conference is searching for a Conference Minister.
10. Sharon Nelson (OHIO) invited youth in grades seven through twelve to the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event July 10-13, 2014

Ms. Bonds indicated the next SpeakOut! will be tomorrow morning during Plenary 7. Sign-ups will immediately follow this Plenary.

## **2. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

A delegate requested prayer for Mr. Todd Owens and Ms. Elizabeth Stevens who have lesions on their brains.

Assistant Moderator Bonds stated there is no such thing as a friendly amendment. Once an amendment is made, it requires a vote. If there is a grammatical correction to be made to a resolution, consent will be requested. If there is objection, a vote will be required.

## **3. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.**

Ms. Bonds called on Ms. Crystal Silva-McCormick, Chairperson of Committee 5, to present the resolution. Ms. Silva-McCormick moved the adoption of the resolution Calling for an All Church Offering for Supporting the Education Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ and spoke to the motion.

Eric Olson (CONN) requested the General Synod return to the previous speaker's request for prayer for Mr. Owens and Ms. Stevens. He then led the body in prayer.

Discussion:

Linda Bigler (LCM) requested clarification on the resolution. Are scholarship funds already set up for seminary students included in the resolution? Answer: No, this is not included.

Samuel Conde (FLA) stated there is little funding for many members in discernment. Seminary costs roughly \$45,000, which does not include room and board.

Roddy Dunkerson (NEB) We bring this resolution with the expectation that it will focus on the great gifts of those in ministry.

Carol Stanley (PNW) supports our seminarians, but adding a sixth all church offering is of concern.

Jane Tedder (EC) moved an amendment to Line 1147 – strike the second “and” and replace it with “or.” The motion was seconded.

Roddy Dunkerson (NEB) advised this issue was raised and debated by the committee and rejected. We hope the amendment is defeated.

Geoffrey Black (General Minister & President) spoke in favor of the amendment. The Collegium has discussed this matter in depth. Our concern is the resolution without the “or” language would tie our hands. Other options would help us tremendously in the immediate future.

David Greenhaw (Eden Seminary) spoke against the amendment. The United Church of Christ General Synods have studied how to support seminarians. Since 1957 this church has been trying to do this for members in discernment, not seminarians. What we’re asking is that we are given a mechanism to support those members.

Steve Keithahn (EC) supports the amendment. There is a lack of funding for seminarians. We should trust our executives to address this issue.

Janet McClain (ILL) stated Committee 5 was aware of the ongoing review of current offerings. We rejected “or” because this is as important as the other offerings.

Emily Heath (VT) is married to a seminarian and funding is very difficult. We participate in a seminary food bank.

John Deckenback (CAC) Chairs of the Conference Ministers Financial Development Committee that is undertaking the study of offering patterns in the United Church of Christ. Please allow us to study without dictating to us. This will be dealt with at the next General Synod.

Twila Rhodes (FLA) asked if the amendment would prohibit the offering or allow for other things to happen. Answer: Ron Patterson (EC) responded that “or” would not prohibit the offering, but would provide other options.

Samuel Conde (FLA) spoke against the amendment because it would stop the offering from being what is asked for.

Kaji Spellman (EC) called the question and the motion was seconded.

**13-GS-34 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end debate on the amendment.

**13-GS-35 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to strike the second “and” to replace it with “or” on Line 1147.

Ron Freyer-Nicholas (FLA) requested a re-vote due to confusion of how the amendment was stated. The amendment was restated and a second vote was taken.

**13-GS-36 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to strike the second “and” to replace it with “or” on Line 1147.

Assistant Moderator Bonds called the order of the day and advised the discussion on the All Church Offering resolution will resume tomorrow morning.

#### **4. CELEBRATION OF PENSION BOARDS 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called on Mr. Michael A. Downs, President and CEO of the Pension Boards, to present a Statement of commendation Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pension Boards.

Mr. Downs recognized past and present Trustees and former Executive Vice Presidents:

Ms. Joan Brannick and Mr. John Ordway and his wife Patricia  
Ms. Marty Baumer, representing all past trustees  
Don Barnes and all retired staff as well as present staff

Mr. Holeman introduced the formal Statement of Commendation Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Annuity Fund and Mr. Downs moved the adoption of the commendation.

**13-GS-37 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Statement of Commendation Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Annuity Fund.

#### **STATEMENT OF COMMENDATION CELEBRATING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE ANNUITY FUND**

WHEREAS, April 23, 2014 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers, and

WHEREAS, the Annuity Fund, during its first century, has gained strength and purpose from its foundations in the Evangelical Synod Fund, the Reformed Sustentation Fund, the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund and the Retirement Fund for Lay Workers, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Annuity Fund faithfully continues forward into its second century through the Annuity Plan for the United Church of Christ, administered by the Pension Boards, an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ;

NOW THEREFORE, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses gratitude to the generations of Pension Boards Trustees and administrative staff persons who, hearing and following God's leadership, have provided a ministry that brings meaningful financial support and confidence to the clergy and lay employees of the Church, and

Gives thanks to the ministries and local churches that have utilized the Annuity Plan and its predecessor retirement plans to honor the service of their clergy and lay employees, and

Celebrates the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Annuity Fund and shares in the continuing covenant of support to all working and retired persons who serve the people of the Church.

## **5. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Assistant Moderator Holeman invited Mr. Quinn Caldwell and Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock to reflect on the evening's business.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Holeman called on Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark for announcements.

1. Don't forget to visit the exhibit hall before noon tomorrow. God's Vision t-shirts have been reduced to \$10.
2. After the worship service tomorrow, fabric strips will be available to put into jackets, quilts, etc. Please take them home with you.
3. Thank you again to our four platinum sponsors: OCWM, Church Building and Loan Fund, the Retirement Housing Fund and the Cornerstone Fund. On behalf of the Southern California Nevada Conference, we acknowledge the following additional donors: Chicago Theological Seminary, Pilgrim Place, Samoan Ministries Table and United Church Funds. We'll now watch a short video from the Cornerstone Fund.

## **7. RECESS**

Mr. Holeman declared the Sixth Plenary Session to be complete and the General Synod to be in recess at the end of worship this evening.

## **8. WORSHIP**

Meditation at the evening worship service was presented by Pastor Julian DeShazier, Senior Minister of University Church, Chicago, Illinois.

## **Tuesday Morning, July 2, 2013 Seventh Plenary Session**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator Libby Tigner called the Seventh Plenary Session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to order.

### **2. SPEAKOUTS!**

Ms. Tigner called on the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Bob Marrone (MASS) talked about thinking visually and liturgically in worship.

2. Twila Rhodes (FLA) expressed her feelings of finding it hard to be classified as youth at age twenty-nine.
3. Brenda Brown (RM) reminded everyone that the Rocky Mountain Conference is searching for a Conference Minister.
4. Andy Lang (OHIO) expressed appreciation that so many people took scarves and signed the no bullying pledge. He urged support from local churches.
5. Lorin Cope (MOMS) talked about Neighborhood Homes and the Nov. 1-3 celebration of 100 years of service to children and families.
6. Regina Low talked about the Mission 4/1 earth project, planting trees in Peru and preserving the rain forest.

Moderator Tigner thanked the participants and advised the final SpeakOut! would be during this afternoon's Plenary. Sign-up for that SpeakOut! immediately following this session.

Moderator Tigner advised there are ninety minutes this morning and ninety minutes this afternoon to complete the business before Synod and there are eleven pieces of business yet to be considered. Anything Synod does not complete will be dealt with by the United Church of Christ Board in October.

Ms. Tigner then reminded delegates which microphone is used for what piece of business.

**3. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Crystal Silva-McCormick, Chairperson of Committee 5, to resume discussion on the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

Meredith Jackson (CA NV, N) offered the following amendment on Line 1151:  
 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod. The motion was seconded.

Discussion:

Megan Culbertson (EC) spoke in favor of the amendment and her anticipated debt following her seminary education.

Rich Pleva (IOWA) opposed the amendment. The problem isn't access to loans, it's the debt, which this would not address.

Meredith Jackson (CA NV,N) expressed the need for a multi-pronged approach and is asking for a feasibility study on low-interest loans. This only asks for a report.

David Greenhaw (Eden Seminary) is deeply discouraged with the resolution and the amendment. The amendment starts to turn the resolution into finding a solution to a very complex problem.



Deborah Dean-Ware (MICH) took a moment of personal privilege. There are delegates staying in far-away hotels who have not yet arrived at this morning's session.

Paul Clay (CA NV,S) called the question on the amendment. The motion was seconded.

**13-GS-38 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to cease discussion on the amendment.

**13-GS-39 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the amendment to Line 1151: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod.

Further discussion on the main motion:

Rich Pleva (IOWA) opposes the resolution with sadness and some anger. As originally framed, the resolution committed the church to ongoing action with theological education. The offering would not have fixed the problem, but it would have been a step in the right direction. Now we are only going to kick the can further down the road.

Jean Tyler (WISC) offered the following amendment to Line 1149:

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the current scholarships of the United Church of Christ be included as beneficiaries of the new all church offering. The motion was seconded.

Linda Bigler spoke to the amendment.

Discussion on the amendment:

Roddy Dunkerson (NEB) opposes the amendment because it continues the process of trying to solve a problem in a very focused way. It's a train wreck.

Judy Fiocco (MOMS) stated it's better than nothing, but urged a "no" vote on the amendment.

Kaji Spellman (EC) requested clarification. Would there be any limit to addressing the debt limit? Does it look at those of us who have already incurred debt?

Answer: There is nothing in the resolution addressing this issue.

Kim Homans (CONN) commented that the plenary session was not opened with prayer. Could we do that now? The Moderator indicated it would be taken under advisement.

Felix Villanueva (CA NV,S) expressed concern that we are not addressing the systemic issue.

The resolution doesn't do anything to actually address the problem.

Brad Tadlock (MINN) called the question. The motion was seconded.

**13-GS-40 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.

**13-GS-41 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to approve the amendment to Line 1149.

Erik Koepnick (WISC) offered the following amendment to Line 1151:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ and the United

Church Board, in covenant and cooperation with the Council of Conference Ministers and closely related seminaries, implement a Seminarian Fund Initiative to generate one million dollars per year for members in discernment seminarian scholarships.

The motion was seconded and Mr. Koepnick spoke to his motion.

Discussion on the amendment:

Andrew Warner (WISC) expressed the need to make this resolution explicit. Previous resolutions have requested action on this issue, but nothing has been accomplished. If we don't address seminary debt, only the wealthy will become pastors.

Miguel Frias (ILL) requested clarification. The amendment proposed says seminary about three times. Does this only address seminarians and not lay leaders?

Jorge Bautista (CA NV, N) stated that his seminary education will end with a debt of over \$100,000. He will take the risk for ministry because he truly feels called by God.

Brenda Brown (RM) feels the intent of the resolution is to put forward a commitment for theological education, not to micromanage the Collegium. Please reject the amendment and trust the Collegium to take this conversation seriously.

Mr. Herb Oliver (ME) called the question and the motion was seconded.

**13-GS-42 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end debate on the amendment.

Alan Miller (PNE) requested the Moderator review this morning's votes since some of the delegations just arrived. Moderator Tigner agreed.

**13-GS-43 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to approve the amendment to Line 1151.

Bill Imes (LCM) called the question on the original motion, as amended.

**13-GS-44 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ, as amended.

**13-GS-45 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ, as amended.

**CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE  
EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR  
AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

WHEREAS, God provides for God's church by calling and gifting persons for ministry in a variety of ways, including pastoral leadership for the church itself;

WHEREAS, the church participates in this providence of God by equipping and authorizing the ministries of some of its called and gifted members through theological education and ordination or commissioning;

WHEREAS, the well-being of the church of Jesus Christ, and particularly of each local church, is enhanced by calling faithful, educated and competent pastors, teachers and other leaders, and is jeopardized by the unavailability of such leadership;

WHEREAS, the church has historically provided for its leadership needs through institutions of theological-pastoral education;

WHEREAS, General Synod III phased out national, direct support to seminaries and called upon Conferences and local churches to assume this responsibility; and General Synod X urged each local church to support the seven closely related (now the seven seminaries of the United Church of Christ) seminary or seminaries in its region at a level equivalent to two percent of its operating budget, but few local churches have done so;

WHEREAS, the cost of educating persons for ministerial leadership has gradually shifted from the church itself to the persons themselves, and, inclusive of living expenses, has increased to 4,000 per year and more to many seminarians;

WHEREAS, many of the current generation of seminary graduates have borrowed large sums of money—often \$30,000 to \$50,000 in addition to any undergraduate student loans still being carried—to complete their theological education and one seminary’s average student loan for the year 1996-97 alone was \$10,200;

WHEREAS, indebted seminary graduates must seek starting salaries sufficient to enable debt repayment on top of costs of living, while the salaries offered by many local churches are marginal at best and inadequate to do so, and these local churches are increasingly hard-pressed to finance even marginally-paid leadership;

WHEREAS, these trends point toward a dearth of church leadership, with only wealthy persons being able to afford to answer God’s call to full-time leadership and only wealthy churches being able to call them;

WHEREAS, the fund-raising efforts of the seminaries of the United Church of Christ and of the Make A Difference Campaign, although providing some increase in scholarship resources, have not been sufficient to stave off these trends;

WHEREAS, all the previous whereas clauses were taken directly from the action of the Twenty-first General Synod “Prevention and Reduction of Seminarians’ Educational Debt” (97GS40) and have not been sufficiently addressed;

WHEREAS, the multiple paths of ministry provide for greater diversity of educational preparation but do not eliminate the need for financial support for members in discernment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ to develop a plan and an implementation schedule for an annual all- church offering or other possible funding initiatives to provide tuition assistance for theological education for members in discernment with associations of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Collegium be requested to present an actionable plan as quickly as possible and no later than the Thirtieth General Synod in 2015.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

In compliance with the Standing Rules the following Minority Report was voted in Plenary 8.

### **MINORITY REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Many who opposed the resolution from Committee 5 did so because we desired a stronger response to the problem of seminarian debt, including a special offering. We call on all expressions of the United Church of Christ to faithfully engage this issue.

#### **4. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Norman Jackson (former Moderator) requested the United Church of Christ find resources for the development of American Indian pastors.

#### **5. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to introduce the resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ. On behalf of the Executive Council, Ms. Lowes moved adoption of the resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ and yielded her time to Ms. Ann Hughes (CONN) to speak to the resolution.

Scott Reeder (NY) reminded the moderator to please read the total number of votes for the resolutions.

Discussion:

Rebecca Kesting (WISC) lifted up the benefits of outdoor ministries.

Julia LeBrell (MICH) spoke in support of the resolution.

**13-GS-46 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synods votes to adopt the resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

### **IN SUPPORT OF OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

WHEREAS, we affirm the crucial support in the past from our national UCC and from many Conferences in both proclaiming and celebrating the vital and visible outdoor ministry to our youth, our churches and the wider church, and

WHEREAS, we recognize the power of Outdoor Ministry sites in promoting wider church/conference financial appeals, including capital campaigns and Our Church's Wider Mission; and further we affirm the crucial support in the past from the national UCC setting and from many conferences, and

WHEREAS, we honor the foresight of founding mothers and fathers of the faith to purchase, develop and invest in Outdoor Ministry camp and retreat sites for the UCC's faith journeys and to grow and raise up leadership in every generation, and

WHEREAS, we celebrate further investments in the infrastructure and improvements to our Outdoor Ministry sites, and

WHEREAS, the UCC, in recognition of the significant number of ordained ministers who claim their Outdoor Ministry experience as foundational to their hearing and heeding of the Call (for example, over 200 clergy credit their experience at Silver Lake Conference Center with hearing the Call), and

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, our outdoor ministries have been developing leaders who live their faith in every walk of life and consider their experiences there as major touchstones in their lives as they make ethical and professional decisions, and

WHEREAS, we further name and recognize the correlation between the alarming closing of Outdoor Ministry sites (from over 65 in 1995 to 35 current member sites) and the lost opportunity for raising up young seminarians, and faith leaders of the Church and Conferences, and for future generations of youth to experience this unique ministry of Jesus, and

WHEREAS, since OMA's inception, we've lost Blakes Grove (IA), Atkinson Center, VT; Deer Hill Conference Center NY; Camp Laurent, NY; Camp Fernbrook PA; Pilgrim Haven, MI; Pleasant Valley Outdoor Center IL; Lake, Camp Western Hills MO; Dillon, RMC; Pilgrim Park,

ND; Deering Conference Center NH (BHM); Pilgrim Haven, MI; Warner Farm, MA; Ingraham House, CT; Rockcraft Lodge, ME; Dillon Hi Country, Rocky Mountain Central Conference and Pilgrim's Playground, AZ, and more recently, Lake Byrd, Florida; Camp Fernbrook PA SE, Lani Kamaha'o, Oahu Association, HI; Bows Lake Camp and Conference Center, MI Conference, and many others,

In recognition that Camps have closed and been sold by our UCC Conferences and Associations across the country; and in recognition of current sites in distress even now, (Mensch Mill Conference and Retreat Center, PSE) and in light of the disturbing trend of closings of faith-based camps across the country,

AND WHEREAS, it would not be inappropriate to describe the state of Outdoor Ministry in the UCC as the 'Canary in the Coalmine' for our denominational lifecycle,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod of the UCC gathered in Long Beach, CA declares its advocacy and support of the Outdoor Ministries Association (OMA), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod requests that the conferences, associations and other settings of the wider church, prayerfully discerning the long term consequences to the youth and future leaders of the church when considering the ramifications of closing a camp or center, seek the counsel of the OMA, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod, requests that the conferences, associations and other settings of the wider church provide timely notification to OMA in the event of impending Outdoor Ministry site or program closing so OMA may have the opportunity to provide resources, support and consultation to the distressed body and to programs at risk.

#### **FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

### **6. PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE COLLEGIUM ON GUN VIOLENCE CONCERNING DEFEAT OF SB 649**

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes for additional items of business brought by the Executive Council. Ms. Lowes introduced the Pastoral Letter from the Collegium on Gun Violence concerning the defeat of SB 649 and urged affirmation.

Ron Patterson (FLA) urged affirmation and stated that the tragedy in Connecticut touched everyone.

**13-GS-47 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes, without objection, to affirm the Pastoral Letter from the Collegium on Gun Violence Concerning Defeat of SB 649.

**TEXT OF THE PASTORAL LETTER**  
**RELEASED BY THE COLLEGIUM ON APRIL 17, 2013**

As the names of thousands of women, men, and children lost to gun violence echo across the grounds of the U.S. Capitol today, we are deeply disappointed by the failure of the U.S Senate to move forward with sensible, responsible legislation to address the scourge of gun violence by expanding background checks on commercial gun sales. Despite today's Senate vote against the Manchin-Toomey amendment to the Senate gun violence bill, we stand resolute and unwavering in our commitment to continue the work of ending gun violence in our society.

We simply cannot accept gun violence as the norm in our nation. It is nothing less than a moral imperative that our public policy reflects a commitment to lessening the toll that gun violence takes in communities throughout our country. While we recognize that no one piece of legislation in and of itself address the complex and multilayered context of gun violence, such common sense gun violence legislation can save lives, and we must take every action we can to keep our children, families and communities safe.

As people of faith, we know all too well the terrible toll that gun violence takes in our communities, year after year, day after day. The wounded, family members and friends of victims are members of our congregations and our local communities. We hold them in our arms, sit with them in hospital emergency rooms, share the tears and the ache of loss, offer prayers of accompaniment, and gather in candlelight vigils.

It is deeply troubling that our elected officials have rejected a measure that has the support of over 90% of the American public, gun owners among them. We are heartened by the hopeful signs of bipartisan dialogue and partnership that have been evident in this debate, and we encourage lawmakers to summon the political courage to continue such efforts.

The faith community has come together many times in the aftermath of gun tragedies over the years to urge legislators to pass laws that would further prevent gun violence, and we will not falter in this critical work. We will continue to advocate for sensible, responsible gun violence prevention that strengthens background checks on gun purchases, addresses gun trafficking, bans military-style assault weapons and high capacity ammunition clips.

Since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School last December, over 3,000 women, men and children have been lost to gun violence. Words from the Gospel prod us, "Would that we knew the things that make for peace."

The UCC Collegium of Officers:  
The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President  
The Rev. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries

The Rev. James A. Moos, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries  
The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries  
W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister

While the Senate was voting, names of people who have been killed by gun violence were read on the National Mall. One week earlier a makeshift grave with more than 3,300 markers, representing each person shot since Sandy Hook, lined the lawn outside the Capitol as a reminder of gun violence victims whose lives were lost.

**7. AFFIRMATION OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF AFFIRMING MINISTRIES**

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes to present the next item of business on behalf of the Executive Council. Ms. Lowes moved the Affirmation of Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. Ms. Lowes then yielded her time to United Church of Christ Ecumenical Officer, Ms. Karen Georgia Thompson, who spoke to the motion.

**13-GS-48 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to affirm the relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries.

**AFFIRMATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF AFFIRMING MINISTRIES**

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries has been a faithful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries reflects a broad theological perspective that embraces aspects of the Pentecostal, Holiness and Charismatic traditions; and

WHEREAS there are United Church of Christ congregations, authorized ministers and laity who are active participants in The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; and

WHEREAS, there are participants in The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries who exhibit a bold Christian witness but are not a part of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries provides strong leadership and bold witness in urban ministries; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries is an advocate and witness for justice globally and continues to provide leadership with its HIV/AIDS ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries is a full participant with ministries within the United Church of Christ such as the UCC Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns; and



WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries promotes intentional inclusivity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ in all its settings commit itself to a relationship of deepening friendship, continuing dialogue, and joint public witness with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the United Church of Christ's Covenanted Ministries, Associated and Affiliated Ministries, Conferences and Associations, including Committees on Ministry, to be intentional in learning about The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and engaging with congregations, clergy, and leadership of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage dialogue between the United Church of Christ and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries to discern where the ministry of both might be enhanced by further cooperation and collaboration; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the seminaries and other settings of the church to familiarize themselves with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and disseminate information about The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries in their respective institutions in order to deepen understanding of the faithful witness of The Fellowship of Ministries as a partner working in and with the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage further conversation on matters related to ministerial and congregational standing, sacramental life, theology, polity and ecclesiology throughout the life of the church; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage all settings of the United Church of Christ to exercise intention in learning about the witness of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and its part in the Holiness, Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions and how that witness informs its participation within the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage all settings of the United Church of Christ to invite participation by The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries in national, regional and local events; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the development of resources and other educational events and tools to foster deeper learning and understanding of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and its role and relationship with the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage leaders in the United Church of Christ to seek to make common public witness with leaders of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries on issues of national and international concern and collaborate wherever possible on works of public witness and justice-making; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and The Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries appoint members to create and sustain an on-going working group to facilitate and encourage the continued growth and development of this relationship between the United Church of Christ and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries.

#### **8. RECOGNITION OF MISSION 4/1 EARTH**

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Sarah Lund, a Florida Conference Regional Minister; Mr. Kenneth Makuakane, Program Associate to the Hawaii Conference; Ms. Vivian Lucas, Executive Director of the Franklinton Center at Bricks; and Ms. Meighan Prichard, Mission 4/1 Earth Campaign Coordinator and Interim Pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle, Washington to share information about Mission 4/1 Earth.

Ms. Lund, Mr. Makuakane, Ms. Lucas and Ms. Prichard introduced environmental speaker Mr. David Orr. Mr. Orr questioned how future generations will be sustained. Carbon remains in the atmosphere for a long time and can affect us one thousand years from now. This is a long-term problem. A legal climate policy is needed. Our challenge is powering as much as possible with sunlight.

Moderator Tigner thanked Mr. Orr for his comments.

#### **9. CELEBRATION OF EXISTING STRUCTURE AND BOARDS / INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council. Ms. Lowes called for members of the existing Ministry Boards and Executive Council to gather and welcome members of the new United Church of Christ Board. A time of farewell and installation of new board members was conducted.

#### **10. POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Jim Antal (MASS) thanked delegates for the vote on the Divestment Resolution.

Joshua Simon (WIS) requested a Minority Resolution be presented at the current or next business session in response to the All Church Offering Resolution vote. Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman advised that a minority resolution requires a majority vote of those voting in the negative on the original resolution. Time will be given to the conferences to proceed with determining which of their delegates were eligible to vote on this motion.

Adam Isbitsky (MASS) states we have been reminded to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Could we raise the temperature in the room to use less fossil fuel?

Ron Trimmer (IS) requested, with Dr. Orr's permission, that his power point presentation be put on the United Church of Christ website.

Davida Foy Crabtree (IS) would appreciate a written copy of Dr. Orr's speech to study.

**11. THE UNITED SAMOAN MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
REQUEST TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED  
GROUP AND MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR RACIAL & ETHNIC MINISTRIES  
RESOLUTION**

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Mr. Bob Bachelder, Chairperson of Committee 8, who moved the adoption of The United Samoan Ministries of the United Church of Christ Request to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group and Member of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries resolution. He then spoke to the motion and recommended approval.

Discussion:

Jessica Cole (CA NV, S) stated it's obvious how enthusiastic and involved the Samoan youth are in the United Church of Christ. It's important to recognize and honor the rich culture of Samoa.

Deborah Dean Ware (MICH) stated she is sad to oppose this resolution. As she read the resolution and sat in on the committee meeting, she would like to trust that this resolution represents most of the Samoan churches. However, she does not believe it does. Is this a resolution that will promote unity especially as it relates to the PAAM as well as the COREM?

Felix Villanueva (CA NV, S) feels the resolution represents three of the five groups. The Samoan community understands what covenant means. The Samoan church in his conference is the largest growing community in the United Church of Christ. He urged support of the resolution.

Charles Buck (HI) stated the Samoan churches are a major portion of the United Church of Christ membership. He has some reservations about the resolution however. We're talking about some churches that are affiliated with other denominations. He thinks we need to take some time to understand the situation. He supports the concept, but not this particular resolution.

Sally Buffington (CA NV, S) urged support of the resolution and stated the Samoan people have a deep faith and much to say.

Julia Swain (CA NV, N) stated she would like to understand this issue more deeply. She does have concerns about the resolution as it currently stands. There is a need for continuing conversation and urged a negative vote. She also urged the Samoan community to bring this issue back to General Synod Thirty.

Alison Morales (CA NV, S) said this has not happened quickly. The Conference has worked for years to grow with our Samoan brothers and sisters. Not everyone is on the same page, but the Samoan community has asked to be recognized. They are still growing and have unique gifts. We can learn from them. She urged approval of the resolution.

Marilyn Pagan Banks (EC) opposes the resolution. She loves the Samoan community, but to separate them would diminish their role. COREM represents caucuses of unified peoples.

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called for a vote to stop debate.

**13-GS-49 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to cease debate on the resolution.

Additional discussion:

Michiko Reyes (OGM) strongly supports our Samoan brothers and sisters. This is God's vision for us. Let's celebrate the diversity in our denomination.

Christopher Jenkins (MASS) objects on general principles. This is another effort to segment us. We say that they may all be one, but to add another group segments us further.

Madison Shockley (CA NV, S) is thrilled and excited about interacting with Samoan brothers and sisters. They need to be recognized. Hopes the resolution is affirmed.

A visitor (CA NV, S) stated the Samoan community has been trying to find a place to belong. There are 183,000 Samoans in the country.

Madaline Allsup (RM) doesn't want to vote until we hear from more Samoan voices.

Julia Swain (CA NV, N) moved to table this motion until the next General Synod.

Assistant Moderator Holeman advised that a motion to postpone indefinitely is in order. A new resolution would be required. The motion to postpone indefinitely was seconded and Ms. Swain spoke to the motion.

Paul Clay (CA NV, S) is against postponing this issue. There will be discussion about this issue no matter how we vote.

Charles Buck (HI) supports the motion to postpone indefinitely. We need more conversation.

Alison Morales (CA NV, S) urged delegates not to postpone indefinitely. This would send a hurtful message to our Samoan brothers and sisters. They have asked for recognition.

Mike Underhill (OHIO) stated many Samoans were present at the committee meeting hearing and are in favor of this resolution. We need to move ahead. He encouraged a "no" vote on the motion to postpone.

David Anderson (ME) called the question and it was seconded.

**13-GS-50 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end debate on the motion to postpone indefinitely.

**13-GS-51 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to postpone action indefinitely on the resolution.

The question was called on the main motion.

**13-GS-52 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the main motion.

**13-GS-53 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution The United Samoan Ministries of the United Church of Christ Request to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group and Member of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

**THE UNITED SAMOAN MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**REQUEST TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED**  
**GROUP AND MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR RACIAL AND**  
**ETHNIC MINISTRIES**

WHEREAS, the Nineteenth General Synod adopted the "Statement of Christian Conviction of the Proposed Pronouncement Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church," and

WHEREAS, the Samoan churches have been related to COREM through PAAM from its inception, and

WHEREAS, PAAM's 16 ethnicities have always been hospitable and inclusive of their Samoan partners, nevertheless, Samoans feel they have sufficiently unique needs and experiences to have a separate voice in COREM, and

WHEREAS, Southern California PAAM has voted to support this request.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes that the five streams of Samoan ministries have been historically underrepresented in the United Church of Christ.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod supports the creation of the United Samoan Ministries as an Historically Underrepresented Group of the United Church of Christ.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Executive Council (or its successor body) consider a change in bylaws that would grant the United Samoan Ministries a seat at the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM) table.

**FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

James Moos, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, stated the United Church of Christ is committed to engaging our global partners so all voices are heard, continuing "We are committed to engaging the Samoan community in the implementation stage of this resolution."

A moment of silent prayer was requested following the vote on this resolution.

Art Cribbs (EC) stated he doesn't believe we have to have a unified voice to request recognition. We need to be cautious about this issue.

Ben Guess (LCM) received a message from Desmond Tutu congratulating the United Church of Christ for its action on the resolution regarding climate change.

## **12. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Mr. Holeman called on Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock and Mr. Quinn Caldwell for theological reflection.

## **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

1. The last chance for SpeakOuts! will be this afternoon.
2. Luggage storage is available in the Local Arrangements office.
3. It is unsafe to go behind the curtain. The only thing back there is the opportunity to get electrocuted.
4. If you rented a scooter, it needs to be returned by 8 p.m. tonight or by 7:30 a.m. tomorrow.
5. Voting devices need to be returned at the conclusion of the voting plenary tonight. Please return them to your conference coordinator.
6. A final thank you to our platinum sponsors: Our Church's Wider Mission, The United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund, the Retirement Housing Foundation and the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund. We will now see a short video from the Retirement Housing Foundation.

## **14. RECESS**

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman declared the Seventh Plenary to be complete and the Twenty-ninth General Synod to be in recess until 2:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday Afternoon, July 2, 2013 Eighth Plenary Session**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called the Eighth Plenary of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m.

#### **2. SPEAKOUTS!**

Mr. Holeman called upon the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Harold Beer (MICH) spoke about bicycling to General Synod Thirty in Cleveland. Please join in the challenge.
2. David Beebe (MOMS) requested a moment of silence in honor of Nelson Mandela and then offered a prayer.
3. Ronald Freyer-Nicholas (FLA) urged clergy not to act as agents of the state by refusing to sign marriage licenses until such time as the thirty-seven states that discriminate, eliminate their discrimination.

4. Tyler Smith (SOC) and friends invited persons to consider their application for new leadership at Lancaster Theological Seminary.
5. Cathy Burbury and Nila Fitzgerald (WIS) invited delegates to join them in the recognition of David Moyer, retired Wisconsin Conference Minister.
6. Diane Johnson (CA NV, N) invited qualified persons to apply for the “Change-maker” Scholarships available at Pacific School of Religion. Fifteen scholarships are available for students of color. Applications are due July 15, 2013.
7. Brigit Stevens (MINN) expressed appreciation to the Local Arrangements Committee for providing superb child care.
8. Louie Blue Coat (CAIM) extended an invitation to groups to partner with CAIM in keeping the stories of Native Americans alive. He also acknowledged Mr. Norm Jackson’s leadership role as the first Native American Moderator of the South Dakota conference.
9. Kelli Parrish Lucas (CA NV, S) spoke on behalf of the UCC Disability Ministry’s program “Widening The Welcome.” She invited delegates to use the resources available through the Mental Health Network on line at [uccdm.org](http://uccdm.org).
10. Libby Tigner (CA NV, S) expressed thanks and appreciation to all the national staff who are the unsung heroes who work at 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

Mr. Holeman thanked the participants and Mr. Dick Sparrow for his work at the SpeakOut! Coordinator.

### **3. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Mr. Holeman acknowledged Ms. Twila Rhodes (FLA) who celebrated the fact that forty-three persons met for the organizational meeting of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries over lunch.

### **4. MINORITY REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.**

Mr. Holeman reported the vote in affirmation of Committee 5’s resolution passed with a sixty-five percent vote. According to the By-laws and Standing Rules, a minority resolution is allowed.

The Minority Resolution is the exclusive subject of those who voted against the resolution. Debate is reserved to those who are eligible to vote. Passage will require a majority of those who voted “no.” If the minority resolution passes, it will be attached to the main resolution.

Mr. Joshua Simon (WIS) moved the adoption of the following Minority Resolution:

Many who opposed the resolution from Committee 5 did so because they desired a stronger response to the problem of seminarian debt, including a special offering. We call on all expressions of the United Church of Christ to faithfully engage this issue.

Mr. Simon then spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Mr. Miguel Friez (ILL) expressed opposition to the Minority Resolution indicating there were other ways to leadership, not necessarily through seminary.

Ms. Alison Morales (CA NV,S) shared that serving on the search committee of a small church allowed her to encounter a number of clergy candidates who cannot afford to accept a call to a small church because they have to make their decision based on finances.

Ms. Lynda Bigler (LCM) indicated the previous amendments to the original resolution were not necessary. One does not need to have an MDiv degree in order to be a minister anymore.

Ms. Carole Barner (MOMS) shared that not all have the capacity to attend seminary. When mission is highlighted, the money will follow. Please pray for the Collegium and for all members in discernment to make theological education a priority in all forms.

Mr. Adrian Maxey (KO) called the question and the motion was seconded.

**13-GS-54 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate.

**13-GS-55 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the minority resolution:

#### **5. RESOLUTION AGAINST BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION**

Assistant Moderator Holeman called upon Ms. Kathy Rahorst, Chairperson of Committee 3, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Rahorst moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination.

Discussion:

Mr. Charles Wildman (MASS) expressed appreciation to the Central Atlantic Conference for originating the resolution. He would like to see a broader discussion of bullying in terms of the connection between churches and lay leaders where pastors have been driven out.

Ms. Kelli Parrish Lucas (JWM) spoke from a personal perspective as a victim in the workplace and even in seminary. Prayerfully consider what it means for us as a church here.

Ms. Colleen Samson (SOC) reported that much attention has been given to the bullying of children. This behavior is not acceptable anywhere, especially in our churches. We say everyone is welcome, but persist in behaviors that are not welcoming. It must stop in all forms.

Mr. Tim Gormley (ME) moved to amend that the items listed in Lines 1070 to 1072 be listed in alphabetical order. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to close debate on the amendment.

**13-GS-56 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod voted to close debate on the amendment.



**13-GS-57 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to amend the resolution by listing the items in Lines 1070 to 1072 in alphabetical order.

Ms. Holly Adams (CONN) requested the word “age” be added at Line 1070. With no objections, the word was included.

Ms. Dee Lundberg (JWM) moved to amend by adding the word “clergy” after “stakeholders” in Line 1066. The motion was seconded.

**13-GS-58 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to amend by adding the word “clergy” after “stakeholders” in Line 1066.

Mr. Ian Bryant Smith (CONN) called the question and the motion was seconded.

**13-GS-59 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate.

**13-GS-60 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination, as amended.

### **RESOLUTION AGAINST BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION**

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ supports the right of students to attend schools that are safe and free from violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ encourages and expects all churches of the denomination to provide and enforce church policies to ensure the safety of all children and youth participating in church activities; and

WHEREAS, providing safe learning environments in all settings, be it churches, schools, sports complexes, etc., that ensure both the physical and emotional safety of students, and create the conditions necessary to foster success in all endeavors where children and youth are involved; and

WHEREAS, bullying is one of the more common and vicious ways by which such success is imperiled;

WHEREAS, bullying is any behavior that happens when someone is subjected to negative actions from one or more people and has a hard time defending him or herself. Moreover, bullying takes various forms: teasing, taunting or verbal abuse, punching, shoving and physical acts, spreading rumors, ganging up on others, or excluding someone from a group; and

WHEREAS, cyber-bullying occurs when a person uses the Internet, mobile phones, or other electronic devices to bully, the impact can be more long-lasting. Some examples of cyber-bullying are: sending mean or threatening texts, e-mail, or instant messages; posting damaging pictures or hurtful messages online; tricking someone into revealing personal information and sending it to others; and creating websites to make fun of someone; and

WHEREAS, children ache to be considered a viable and vital part of their community and yearn to be treated with dignity; and

WHEREAS, some significantly effective practices are being developed around the country, increased collaboration among schools, churches, community service organizations, and civic clubs needs to be encouraged and those various entities need to be equipped to develop strategies to enhance their effectiveness in reducing bullying; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ supports communities that develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention and elimination of violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all Conferences of the United Church of Christ to work with a broad spectrum of local community stakeholders, clergy, coaches, instructors, parents, staff, students and teachers, and to develop, implement, and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive learning climate free from violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination based on, but not limited to, age, race, ethnicity, language, national identity, political or theological perspectives, appearance, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, economic status or class.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for further education for all people in all settings of our church about the definition, causes and effects of bullying, so that we foster climates of greater safety, and so that we grow in our capacity to love our neighbors as ourselves in word and deed.

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all settings to invest in, promote, and support comprehensive, coordinated, and collaborative strategies to prevent violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination in places of learning so that all students have the opportunity to attend school, engage in the classroom, achieve academic success, and participate in other school activities.

#### **FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

#### **6. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF**

Mr. Holeman called the order of the day so the national staff could be recognized.

Assistant Moderator Ms. Dale Bonds invited all national staff members to join her on the stage. She then invited everyone to formally express their appreciation to the staff, including those who work with the Pension Boards and the United Church Funds. The delegates and visitors responded with a standing ovation.

## **7. SUSPENSION OF THE ORDER OF THE DAY**

Mr. Adrian Maxey (KO) requested that the Order of the Day be suspended until the resolutions are completed.

Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (EC) and Mr. Dwayne Royster (EC) requested to speak to the decision of the Supreme Court regarding Voter Rights.

Section 4 and 4b of the 1965 Voter Rights Act has just been struck down by the Supreme Court. The Court stated the rationale of the provision was needed at that time, but not now. Texas is creating some of the most stringent voter identification laws in our nation. Some of the most marginalized voters in Texas are being excluded. This represents an unjust policy and reverts to laws of the Jim Crow era. There were those who died so that the Voting Rights Act in 1965 would be passed. Historically our denomination has stood as leaders calling for God's vision and justice. It was requested by the Council of Racial Ethnic Ministries that we:

1. Call upon the Collegium to issue a press release naming the sinister nature of the vote
2. Request Justice and Witness Ministries to call upon Congress
3. Request that Justice and Witness Ministries partner with national faith-based movements, including the NAACP and the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights to resist this decision.

Delegates were asked to stand or raise their hands as an expression of solidarity.

Ms. Pagan-Banks reminded everyone of Micah 6: 8 – What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Twenty-ninth General Synod affirms by acclamation the request from the Council of Racial Ethnic Ministries.

## **8. RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Sharon Davis (ILL), Chairperson of Committee 7, to present the actions from that committee.

Ms. Davis moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution Advocating for Funding to construct Quality Affordable Housing.

**13-GS-61 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Advocating for Funding to Construct Quality Affordable Housing.

**ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT  
QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

WHEREAS, the senior population in the United States will double by 2030; and

WHEREAS, senior homelessness is projected to grow 33% by 2020 and 50% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Section 202 provides quality affordable housing to just over 300,000 extremely low-income seniors throughout the US; and

WHEREAS, not one dollar was provided for new developments in 2012 and the 2013 funding is being debated; and

WHEREAS, there are over ten persons on waiting lists nationally for every housing unit which becomes available; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a gap of 5 ½ million units of quality, affordable housing for families; and

WHEREAS, the low-income housing tax credits help to address that gap; and

WHEREAS, the low-income housing tax credit program may come up for negotiation; and

WHEREAS, quality affordable housing for seniors, families and persons living with disabilities is very beneficial to our nation, creates significant savings in other parts of our federal and state budgets, and addresses the Biblical mandate to provide for “the least of these;”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all United Church of Christ conferences, congregations, members and friends, along with the Covenanted and Associated Ministries of the church’s National Setting, to express to the federal Administration and to members of the United States Congress support for:

- restoration of ongoing and robust funding for new construction of quality affordable housing under HUD Section 202 and Section 811; and,
- for the continuation and strengthening of the low-income housing tax credit program.

**FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with the appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

## **9. RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR TAX REFORM AS CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP AND PUBLIC DUTY**

Ms. Davis moved the adoption of the resolution Advocating for Tax Reform as Christian Stewardship and Public Duty.

Ms. Davis reported the funding paragraph and implementation text has been switched at lines 1256 – 1261. She requested delegates place appropriate headings on the respective paragraphs.

**13-GS-62 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Advocating for Tax Reform as Christian Stewardship and Public Duty.

### **ADVOCATING FOR TAX REFORM AS CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP AND PUBLIC DUTY**

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Twenty-fifth General Synod approved the resolution “For the Common Good,” <http://www.ucc.org/justice/public-education/pdfs/Resolution-for-the-Common-Good.pdf> affirming that “paying taxes for government services is a civic responsibility of individuals and businesses”; “the tax code should be progressive, with the heaviest burden on those with the greatest financial means”; and reaffirming “the obligation of citizens to share through taxes the financial responsibility for public services that benefit all citizens, especially those who are vulnerable”;

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Twenty-fifth General Synod also approved the resolution, “To Advance the Cause of the Most Disadvantaged in the Budgetary and Appropriations Process,” <http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/TO-ADVANCE-THE-CAUSE-OF-THE-MOST-DISADVANTAGED-IN-THE-BUDGETARY-AND-APPROPRIATION-PROCESS.pdf> urging the “General Minister and President and ... Justice and Witness Ministries to: ... exert their full influence in the public forum to support the restoration of more progressive taxes and to oppose cuts in programs that hurt the disadvantaged”;

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Twenty-fourth General Synod approved the resolution, “A Theological Response to Corporate Greed,” <http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/A-THEOLOGICAL-RESPONSE-TO-CORPORATE-GREED.pdf> calling the UCC to “support legislation limiting the ability of companies to use offshore subsidiaries to shelter tax payments or to avoid transparency of information needed to monitor corporate behavior”;

WHEREAS, in 1975, the Tenth General Synod approved a “Statement on Racial and Economic Justice” calling the UCC to “address the need for just tax reform which recognizes the problem of inadequate income distribution”;

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Seventh General Synod approved the pronouncement, “Sharing the Cost of Government Fairly,” affirming that “taxes should fall on taxpayers in accordance with their ability to pay” and calling for a number of tax reforms including the elimination of the “present preferential treatment afforded most capital gains ... [which] should be taxed at the same rates as any other income.”

WHEREAS, the United States is an extremely wealthy nation;

WHEREAS, in 2011, 46.2 million people (15.0%) in the United States lived in poverty including 16.1 million children (21.9%) and, of these, 44% lived on less than half the poverty-level income;

WHEREAS, as the national income, per person, doubled over the past 38 years, income inequality rose: average income for the bottom 90% of households declined, average annual income for the next 9% rose by less than 50% (less than \$50,000), but annual income among the top 1/100<sup>th</sup> of 1% of households rose by an average of \$20 million;

WHEREAS, income inequality is weakening society and destroying the social fabric;

WHEREAS, shortcomings of the tax system highlighted in the 1969 pronouncement “Sharing the Cost of Government Fairly,” persist:

- the tax system does not meet the test of equity,
- the tax base does not meet the test of adequacy, and
- the inequities of the federal law become inequalities in state taxation.

WHEREAS, churches and nonprofit organizations are unable to meet the needs and provide the opportunities needed by all God’s people in order to live out God’s vision for lives of fullness;

WHEREAS, in a nation of over 300 million people and a world of over six billion, government action is needed to provide for the common good and adequate tax revenues are needed to fund these activities;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has previously called for a tax system that is:

- progressive, insuring that higher-income households and corporations pay a greater share of income in taxes than lower-income ones;
- fair and without loopholes, havens and other arrangements that can be used to legally shield income from taxation;
- neutral, that is, does not create incentives for particular behaviors except when those behaviors are explicitly intended as a goal of public policy;
- adequate to raise sufficient funds to meet social needs and promote the welfare of all; and
- redistributive in order to reduce income inequality and enhance social cohesion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate, educate, work, and pray for:

- a financial transaction tax to reduce financial speculation;
- taxes on capital gains and “carried interest” (income earned by hedge fund managers that is currently taxed at the rate of capital gains) that match those levied on wages and salaries;
- a strong estate tax to reduce the transfer of massive wealth across generations;

- reform of the corporate income tax to 1) boost revenue, 2) close loopholes and stop the use of tax havens, and 3) end incentives that encourage corporations to move jobs offshore;
- a tax system that is progressive, fair, neutral, adequate, and redistributive; and,
- we call upon national staff to explore effectiveness and implications of carbon taxes.

### **FUNDING**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **10. RESOLUTION FOR A CALL TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN HONDURAS RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL DRUGS TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. Bonds called upon Ms. Hannah Snyder-Samuelsan, Chairperson of Committee 12, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Snyder-Samuelsan moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution for A Call to Respond to Violence and Human Rights Violations in Honduras Resulting from Illegal Drugs Trafficking in the United States.

Discussion:

Ms. Marcia Charles (EC) spoke as one of the primary writers of the resolution. She has taken work teams to Honduras, where people have no shoes and no food. Schools are fenced to keep children safe. She urged delegates to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Honduras who have not been forgotten by God.

Mr. James Gottwald (PNE) expressed concern with the resolution. Having worked for fifteen years in Guatemala, he has seen gang violence, but his concern is that the resolution focuses on drug trafficking and not education.

Ms. Susie Craig (ME) spoke in support of the resolution saying that we enjoy freedom of speech while our Honduran brothers and sisters do not. When they do speak, they put themselves in jeopardy.

Mr. Drew McLaren (WCM) moved to amend Line 1417, adding “and drug policy.” The motion was seconded and Mr. McLaren spoke to his amendment.

Mr. Tyler Connoley (WCM) stated we need to look at more than foreign policy. We need to address the war on drugs.

Caroline Dean (CAC) called the question and the motion was seconded.

**13-GS-63 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.

**13-GS-64 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the amendment to add “and drug policy” to Line 1417.

William Peltz (CONN) asked what this amendment means as far as interaction with Hondurans. Lloyd Snyder (CA NV, N) worked on the streets in California as a probation officer and has seen extreme use of drugs and their effects. He has been to Honduras and Guatemala. We can’t blame them, but must blame the consumers north of the border. We must stand with them and accept that the buyers are driving this trade.

Samuel Conde (FLA) called the question on the original motion and the motion was seconded.

**13-GS-65 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution.

**13-GS-66 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution for A Call to Respond to Violence and Human Rights Violations in Honduras Resulting from Illegal Drugs Trafficking in the United States.

**A CALL TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN  
HONDURAS RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND  
DRUG POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, Honduras has experienced a rise in gang violence - it now has the highest homicide rate per capita in the world with 6,200 killings, or 82.1 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010 alone (UN report, 10/2011); and

WHEREAS, this gang violence is directly connected to the trafficking of illegal drugs that are eventually sold here in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the pastors and churches and people of faith in Honduras are unable to speak out against the gangs and the illegal drug trade without the risk of retaliation that threatens their personal safety; and

WHEREAS, we in this country have the freedom to speak out against the drug-related violence that threatens the quality of life of the people in Honduras; and

WHEREAS, we have the responsibility to discourage complacency by raising the awareness of the struggles that others face;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod, gathering in Long Beach, California, calls upon this gathering, the United Church of Christ, its congregations, and wider church settings to raise awareness and engage in educational activities on how the sale and consumption of illegal drugs in this country result in violence and exacerbates human rights violations that threaten not only the quality of life, but life itself, for our sisters and brothers in Honduras; and



LET IT BE RESOLVED, that since pastors in Honduras cannot speak out against the gangs and the violence without risk to their personal safety, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges pastors in churches throughout the United Church of Christ to speak out from their pulpits to give voice to the Hondurans' plight; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries to serve as a resource of information and an active support network, and to provide primary and secondary levels of intervention for advocacy regarding the on-going struggle of our Honduran brothers and sisters; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon our ecumenical partners to advocate for peace and justice and human rights in Honduras; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the churches of the United Church of Christ, in a spirit of solidarity, to hold the people of Honduras and our global partners in prayer; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the United Church of Christ in its various settings to call on our nation's governmental leaders to reassess and recreate our U.S. foreign policy and drug policy to address this situation of human rights violations, illegal drug trafficking, and violence that impacts the quality of life in Honduras.

#### **FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

### **11. RESOLUTION ON MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING IN APPALACHIA**

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Carolyn Keilig, Chairperson of Committee 4, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Keilig moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia.

Discussion:

Mr. Samuel Conte (FLA) shared his personal experience of being from the area. His grandmother is buried on the side of a mountain and he has witnessed mountaintop mining.

**13-GS-67 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia.

**MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING IN APPALACHIA**

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining destroys God's creation by blowing up mountains and burying streams throughout Appalachia; and

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining harms Appalachian communities; and

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining causes the displacement of entire Appalachian communities and their culture; and

WHEREAS, as people of faith, we look to the scriptures for guidance for the choices we make in our lives; and

WHEREAS, we understand scriptures compel us to act on our faith grounded in wonder, reverence, love, and respect for all of God's creation; and

WHEREAS, we are called to spiritual and lifestyle transformation based on justice and reverence for all of God's creatures and creation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ express its opposition to mountaintop removal coal mining and its support for clean, renewable sources of energy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests Justice and Witness Ministries to share these concerns about mountaintop removal coal mining by presenting a copy of this resolution to all appropriate federal and state agencies, congressional committees and elected officials;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to pass legislation and enforce environmental safeguards to end the devastating practice of mountaintop removal coal mining;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, to provide associations, conferences, and congregations with information and timely direction for needed action that can help end mountaintop removal coal mining;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages United Church of Christ congregations and all other settings of the church to identify their sources of electricity and, if sourced from mountaintop removal coal mining, encourages them to change to renewable sources of energy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages United Church of Christ congregations to educate themselves and their communities about the effects of mountaintop removal coal mining and economic options available to Appalachian communities, by intentionally engaging in advocacy and action against mountaintop removal coal mining and for continued care of creation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ advocates for renewable energy and sustainable sources of income to replace mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia in order to create jobs and boost local economies and encourages United Church of Christ congregations to do likewise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the leadership of the United Church of Christ to continue efforts to end mountaintop removal coal mining and engage leaders of other religious traditions and relevant organizations to implement efforts to stop mountaintop removal coal mining.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

### **12. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Mr. Marvin Morgan (Past Moderator) acknowledged the applause and recognition of national staff, however, he reflected that there is an absence of black male clergy. Dr. Charles Cobb was quoted as reminding us there is a tendency to do the right thing when pushed, but as soon as we stop pushing and crying out, the retrenchment begins.

### **13. INVITATION TO THE THIRTIETH GENERAL SYNOD**

Ms. Bonds invited Mr. Phil Hart, incoming Conference Minister of the Ohio Conference, for an invitation to the Thirtieth General Synod in 2015.

Mr. Hart expressed appreciation for the hospitality of our hosts, the California Nevada Southern Conference. He invited the United Church of Christ to Cleveland, Ohio in 2015, the birthplace of both Rock 'n Roll and Superman, as well as the birthplace of the United Church of Christ in 1957.

### **14. THANKS AND RECOGNITION OF THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Bonds called on Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark for a word of thanks to our Local Arrangements Committee and volunteers from the California Nevada Southern Conference. Four hundred fifty-three volunteers participated and every single congregation in the conference was visited and asked to support this General Synod.

The delegates responded with a standing ovation. Mr. Clark also expressed appreciation to the Youth Stewards who were still on the floor as well as the co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee, Mr. Paul Kittlaus and Ms. Janet Vandevender.

### **15. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR**

Ms. Bonds indicated Registrar for the Twenty-ninth General Synod reports 2,933 registrants for the meeting.

Mr. Clark offered the following additional announcements:

1. Scooters need to be returned to the Local Arrangement Office.
2. Voting devices need to be returned to the appropriate coordinators.
3. Videos presented at General Synod will be on the UCC website.
4. Mr. Clark expressed thanks and appreciation to the delegates for the amazing experience as administrator. The delegates responded with warm applause.

### **16. INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR AND ASSISTANT MODERATOR**

Moderator Libby Tigner presented the Moderator-elect and Assistant Moderator-elect to the delegates. A service of installation was conducted for Mr. Brian Holeman and Ms. Sue Artt to their respective positions.

### **17. FINAL THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Ms. Tigner invited Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock and Mr. Quinn Caldwell for their reflections on this General Synod experience, and also thanked them for all they have shared in our time together.

The delegates expressed their appreciation to Ms. Brock and Mr. Caldwell with a standing ovation.

### **18. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Tigner, on behalf of the moderators, expressed thanks and appreciation for everyone's participation and commitment to our denomination and the Church of Jesus Christ. She then called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for the final motion. Ms. Lowes invited the delegates to take a moment to think of friendship and all the "new" that is coming forward. She then invited a round of applause for the moderators, Ms. Tigner, Ms. Bonds and Mr. Holeman. The delegates responded with a standing ovation.

Ms. Lowes noted that with the imminent closing gavel of the final business session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod the Amended Constitution and Bylaws, enabling the new governance structure go in force and the new structure is in place.

Ms. Lowes moved the adjournment of the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of this evening's worship service.

**13-GS-68 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod voted to adjourn at the conclusion of this evening's worship service.

The Moderator, Ms. Libby Tigner gaveled the final business session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to a close.

**19. WORSHIP**

Speaker at the evening worship was Rev. Jo Hudson, former Senior Pastor of Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas.

**Respectfully submitted**  
**January 2, 2014;**

Michell Farrow—Recorder  
Chris Noffke—Recorder

Nancy Cope—Chief Recorder

Dianne Roberts—Editing Proofreader

Denise Shimell—Associate for Governance and General Synod Administration

Adopted and approved by the United Church of Christ Board of Directors of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ on Wednesday, October 09, 2013.

Lee Foley—Chief Administrative Officer

W. Mark Clark—Administrator  
The Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

The Minutes of the General Synods of the United Church of Christ are available online at <http://rescarta.ucc.org/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp> and are held in perpetuity by the Archivist of the United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

**TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD  
DELEGATE**

**Executive Council**

**(91 allotted delegates; 78 sent)**

Douglas Anders  
Jane Anderson  
Douglas Andrews  
Jean Avison  
Geoffrey Black  
Dale Bonds  
Walter John Boris  
Dorinda Broadnax  
Robert Brown  
Reuben Cedino  
Marcia Charles  
W. Mark Clark  
Art Cribbs  
Megan Culbertson  
John Deckenback  
Michael Downs  
Harold Drury  
Marjorie Ellis  
Sylvia Ferrell-Jones  
Kelly Forbush  
Gilberto Garcia Rodriguez  
Jean Golden  
Robert Grove-Markwood  
J. Bennett Guess  
Barbara Hanks  
Christine Hanson  
Alice Harper-Jones  
Don Hart  
Ruth Harvey  
Richard Heiss  
Kathleen Hoffman  
Brian Holeman  
Ann Ito  
M. Linda Jaramillo  
Steve Keithahn  
Julie Kilmer  
Hyo-Jung Kim  
Katherine Lambertson  
Bermin Langbata

**Executive Council (cont.)**

Richard Leavitt  
David Long-Higgins  
Penny Lowes  
Doyle Luckenbaugh  
Ioane Mailo  
James Maki  
Kevin Manz  
Corliss Marsh  
Doug McClelland  
Kimberly McKerley  
James Moos  
David Moyer  
Marilyn Pagan-Banks  
Phyllis Palsma  
Ronald Patterson  
Leslie Penrose  
Rich Pleva  
Sharon Prestemon  
Marta Rodriguez  
Katherine Rogers  
Susan Rotblat-Walker  
Thomas Roust  
Dwayne Royster  
Sheila Rubdi  
Fred Schwerdt  
Christine Shesler  
Bryan Sickbert  
Kaji Spellman  
Brenda Square  
Carol Stanley  
William Sterrett  
Kelly Stone  
Jane Tedder  
Libby Tigner  
Hattie Walker  
Fredd Ward  
Arlinda A. Wickland  
Bernard Wilson  
Douglas Wooten

**JWM Board of Directors**  
**(30 allotted delegates; 30 sent)**

Mary Nelson Abbott  
Aqueelah As-Salaam  
Pamelajune Banks-Anderson  
Geoff Brace  
Michael Cich-Jones  
Leian Cimarra  
Kenneth Comer  
Deborah Davis  
Mike Denton  
Rosanne Dyce-Anderson  
DeSorrow Golden  
Roxanne Gould  
Lauri Hasler  
Jake Joseph  
Dee Lundberg  
Chris Lyman Waldron  
Kelli Parrish Lucas  
Norma Patterson  
Daniel Romero  
Amelie Sell  
Lynne Smouse Lopez  
Anthony Sullivan  
Jeannie Thompson  
William Thwing  
Jacquelyne Tyler  
Andrew Warner  
Diane Welhaven  
Jane Willan  
Carolyn Williamson  
Mitchell Young

**LCM Board of Directors**  
**(30 allotted delegates; 30 sent)**

Lynda Bigler  
Robbie Carlson  
Karen Curtis Weakley  
Susannah Davis  
Mark Doty  
Nancy Erickson  
Jeff Groene  
Jane Haubert  
William Imes  
Meredith Jackson  
Renee Jackson  
Trinaka Jamison Finger  
Nancy Lawrence  
Janet Leung  
Wilma Manchester  
Adrian Maxey  
Steven Mayers  
Akendo Onamwar  
Warren Orikasa  
Reiss Potterveld  
Inez Reid  
John Selders  
Anthony Stoik  
Lisa Strueh  
Tammy Toepke-Floyd  
Elizabeth Walker  
Jan Wargo  
Susan Watterson  
Carol Williams-Swoope  
Frederick Young



**OGM Board of Directors**  
**(30 allotted delegates; 20 sent)**

Pat Barnes-McConnell  
Carol Barriger  
Betsy Bruaw  
Tom Croner  
Katherine Eyberg  
Carla Gregg  
Jan Griesinger  
Harold Harmison  
Dile Holton  
John Klaiman  
Evan Mandigo  
Savannah Mason  
David Pantermuehl  
Christopher Ponnuraj  
Michiko Reyes  
Kenneth Samuel  
Stella Schoen  
Susan Shands  
Tim Weible  
Karl Whiteman

**WCM Board of Directors**  
**(30 allotted delegates; 30 sent)**

Merv Bangert  
Joyce Bathke  
Richard Behringer  
Marcia Bentley  
Louie Blue Coat  
Faith Taeko Nomura Burgess  
Charles Carpenter  
William Clarke III  
Tyler Connoley  
Barbara Daniel  
Alyce Downer  
Thomas Haines  
Oletha Haller  
Mary Frances Hazeltine  
Noah Jensen Tabor  
Joy Lacanienta  
Oliver Martin  
Drew McLaren  
Carol Merriman  
Julie Peeples  
Dietmar Plajer  
Suzanne Robinson  
Katelyn Roedner  
Ariel Royer  
Foai Tanuvasa  
Liza Torres  
Bing Tso  
Jeanne Tyler  
Melva Victorino  
Mei Wang

**California-Nevada Northern**  
**(10 allotted delegates; 10 sent)**

Jorge Bautista  
Diana Carpenter-Madoshi  
Jack Dawson  
Stephanie Doss  
Melissa Gardner-McBride  
Roosevelt Head  
Blythe Sawyer  
Lloyd Schneider  
Julia Swayne  
Patricia Wood

**California-Nevada Southern**  
**(12 allotted delegates; 12 sent)**

Kathie Blackley  
Sally Buffington  
Emily Carter  
Paul Clay  
Jessica Cole  
Sam L. Greening  
Sandy Healy  
Kevin Johnson  
Paul Lance  
Alison Morales  
Madison Shockley  
Karen Steward

**Calvin Synod**  
**(3 allotted delegates; 2 sent)**

Bela Poznan  
Viktor Toth

**Central Atlantic Conference**  
**(17 allotted delegates; 16 sent)**

Delancy Catlett  
Caroline Dean  
Amy Dunham  
Robert Faison  
Barbara Ferguson Kamara  
William Field  
Jennifer Sowell Glover  
Robin Bacon Hoffman  
Ginny Peters  
Sarah Pomerantz  
Derek Ritenour  
Alexander Schaeberle  
Tianca Sibert  
Dolores Watson  
Steve Wood  
Robert Ziegler

**Central Pacific Conference**  
**(5 allotted delegates; 5 sent)**

Dennis Alger  
Salome Chimuku  
John Hickox  
Jean Vercoouteren  
Lessie Williams

**Connecticut****(51 allotted delegates; 49 sent)**

Ann Aaberg  
Holly Adams  
Michael Ader  
Julie Altman  
Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez  
Lyn Berrett Barrett  
Jo Ann Battistoni  
Martha Bays  
Nicole Bernier  
Joseph Blotz  
Keith Bolton  
Mia Bryant  
Ian Bryant-Smith  
Paul Bryant-Smith  
Sara Cipot  
Gabriel Cosme  
Gabrielle Cusano  
Sam Dexter  
Mia Douglas  
Adam Eckhart  
Allen Fanslow  
Cheryl Fine  
Holly Francis  
John Gagel  
Brian Hardee  
Timothy Haut  
Jane Hawken  
Diana Hellyer  
Kim Homans  
Stuart King  
Lindsey Levenson  
Kathryn Lewis  
Sarah Libby  
Jordon Long  
Donna Manocchio  
Ann Marino  
Kevin Mayo  
Elizabeth Miller  
Erick Olsen  
William Peltz  
Edward Rawls  
Jill Ricci

**Connecticut (cont.)**

Olivia Robinson  
Erica Roggeveen Byrne  
Deborah Roy  
John Sawchuck  
Bryn Smallwood-Garcia  
Ian Sorensen  
Norean Woodin

**Florida****(16 allotted delegates; 16 sent)**

Ian Beason  
Vonshelle Beneby  
Maria Burt  
Susan Cheney  
Samuel Conde  
Ronald Freyer Nicholas  
Bonnie Lipton  
Johnathon Makara  
Carlos Marquez-Sterling  
Charnley Marsden  
Jacques Mervil  
James Rapp  
Twila Rhodes  
Katherine Rooke  
Jan Steinberg  
Mark Vannoy

**Hawaii****(10 allotted delegates; 10 sent)**

Grale Chong  
Darrel Itano  
Aletha Kaohi  
Elwood Kita  
Pearl Misa-Lau  
Meleane Moala  
Welina Tong  
Aileen Trout  
Michael Warren  
Kalani Wong

**Illinois**

**(49 allotted delegates; 48 sent)**

Phoebe Amago  
James Barnes  
Dave Bateman  
Bruce Bergthold  
Janice Blickhan  
Bill Bordonaro  
Anita Bush  
Rebecca Clancy  
Paula Comper  
Bertha Condra  
Scott Cunningham  
Sharon Davis  
Shirley Fleming  
Sanndra Florentino  
Carmen Flres-Rance  
Julie Foust  
Miguel Frias  
Malcolm Griffiffith  
Belinda Gross  
Kristopher Hewitt  
Dave Holston  
Muriel Jahn  
Brett Johnson  
John Kendall  
A. Parker Lewis III  
Janet MacLean  
Sheryl Magee  
Charles Maney  
Marian McKinney  
Kevin McLemore  
Meredithe Mimplitz  
Michael Montgomery  
Jorge Morales, Jr.  
Jeanne Murawski  
Mary Newcomb  
Emmy Odean  
Corey Pagan-Banks  
Jean Eyrich Pennell  
Deveal Person  
Bruce Pilcher  
Markita Sanders  
Kim Shelton

**Illinois (cont.)**

David Stewart  
Lauren Sullivan  
Timoth Sylvia  
Gayle Tucker  
Jed Watson  
Kimberly Woot

**Illinois South**

**(16 allotted delegates; 16 sent)**

Sue Arr  
Noah Atkins-Harris  
Aaron Ban  
Lillian Daiber  
John Holst  
Sonja Ingebritsen  
Gustav Kuether  
John LaMaster  
James Mertz  
R. J. Morgan  
Lois (Pat) Morris  
Linda Reynolds  
Rachel Sterrett  
Ron Trimmer  
Will VerDuin  
Stephanie Williams

**Indiana-Kentucky**

**(19 allotted delegates; 19 sent)**

Wendy Bruner  
Sharon Crosby  
Thomas Dean  
Christian Decker  
Cheyanne Elliott  
Brian Fillingim  
Paul Jahn  
Deborah Jeffrion  
Billy Kilgore  
Deborah McBride  
Stephen Moore  
Richard Pulling  
Natalie Renner  
Kelly Rider  
Tanya Schmitz  
Walter Snowa  
Ross Tyler  
Bekki Vail  
Ronald Wunsch

**Iowa**

**(20 allotted delegates; 18 sent)**

Cameron Barr  
Ken Bickel  
David Boogerd  
Lindsey Bruan  
Fred Breen  
Jane Buck  
Pamela Burtnett  
Elizabeth Colton  
Joyce Fisher  
Hayley Handyside  
Matthew Hunt  
Paul Johnson  
Reva Karstens  
Elizabeth Manning  
Crystal McCormick  
Anthony Portero-Paff  
Mark Wampler  
Brian Wohlhuter

**Kansas-Oklahoma**

**(6 delegates allotted; 6 sent)**

Janis Gian  
Natalie Lemley  
Josh Longbottom  
Lizette Merchan  
Matt Perkins  
Nancy Wolfe

**Maine**

**(12 allotted delegates; 12 sent)**

David Anderman  
Julianne Brown  
Beth Campbell  
Carl Goodwin-Moore  
Timothy Gormley  
Gabriel Hoffman  
Cynthia Huggins  
Herbert Oliver  
Chad Poland  
Jane Rich  
Richard Waddell  
Kelli Whitman

**Massachusetts****(46 allotted delegates; 45 sent)**

John Allen  
Robert Bachelder  
Molly Baskette  
Angela Boheim  
Thomas Carter  
Janet Clarke  
Daniel Cooperrider  
Brent Damrow  
Charles Desmond  
Lynne Devnew  
Kevin Fogarty  
Kelly Gallagher  
Dawn Hammond  
Ian Holland  
Adam Isbitsky  
Patricia Jackman  
Robert Jackman  
Christopher Jenkins  
Courtney Jones  
Marjorine Gabriella Kabiite  
Vicki Kemper  
Patricia Kogut  
Richard Lawrence  
John Lombard  
Lauren Lorincz  
Ian Lynch  
Bob Marrone  
Bert Marshall  
Elsa Marshall  
William Neil  
Sally Norris  
Mark Pohlman  
Donald Remick  
Keit Remick  
Barbara Darling Smith  
Judith Stone  
John Terry  
Adam Tierney-Eliot  
Ivy Tillman

**Massachusetts (cont.)**

Barbara Tuner Delisle  
Bradford Watters  
Anne Wildman  
Charles Wildman  
Christina Williams  
Cindy Worthington-Berry

**Michigan****(20 allotted delegates; 20 sent)**

Traci Bartell  
Harold Berr  
Terri Bracy  
Ralph Brown  
Deborah Dean-Ware  
William Dempsey  
Mary DuBuis  
Jeremy Farley  
Ruth Fitzgerald  
Dan Furman  
Rob Hunter  
Julia LeBrell  
Emily McGaughy  
Mathew Oommen  
Thomas Ott  
Bethany Rozeboom  
Chris Schwab  
Hanifa Shareef  
Sameerah Shareef  
Jerry Wallace

**Minnesota**  
**(19 allotted delegates; 18 sent)**

Dan Batson  
Sharon Fazel  
Damen Heitmann  
Shirley Hoff  
Nick Johnson  
Barb Martin  
Kristy May  
Cindy Mueller  
Emily Olson  
Karen Peterson  
T. Michael Rock  
Mark Scott  
Hans Simons  
Nancy Swanson  
Bradley Tadlock  
Hannah Tower  
Justin Tucker  
Michael Wasylik

**Missouri Mid-South**  
**(22 allotted delegates; 22 sent)**

Carole Barner  
Evelyn Bauer  
David Beebe  
Traci Blackmon  
Don Driemeier  
Judy Fiocco  
Jill Gillespie  
Marthaa Hawthorne  
Carolyn Held  
Judy Hertenstein  
Wesley Hurt  
Stephen King  
Charlene Klein  
Karen Miller  
Eric Moeller  
Andrea Moran  
Gene Ridder  
Sue Rinne  
Mark Roberts

**Missouri Mid-South (cont.)**

Hannah Wedemeyer  
Laura Yurs

**Montana - N. Wyoming**  
**(3 allotted delegates; 3 sent)**

Alexandra Elison  
Neil Lindorff  
Lacey Spencer

**Nebraska**  
**(10 allotted delegates; 10 sent)**

Jerry Cassidy  
Cathy Ann Colson  
Gerald Eskilsen  
Ken Evitts  
Margeaux Gomez  
Diana Jahn  
Katee Kunzman  
Bill Newman  
Les Parmenter  
Kathy Rahorst

**New Hampshire**  
**(14 allotted delegates; 14 sent)**

Dawn Berry  
Kathryn Blair  
Ann Craxton  
Michael Denney  
DawnGarrett-Larsen  
Kenneth Gould  
Katie Howe  
Carolyn Keilig  
Wayne Martin  
Martell Spagnolo  
Katrin Tharp  
Maren Tirabassi  
Kathy Traynor  
James Zapp

**New York****(23 allotted delegates; 23 sent)**

Marcie Agee  
Sandy Damhof  
Rick Danielson  
Anne Hurd  
Cynthia Jackson  
Martha Jacobs  
Lyle Jenks  
Steve Johnson  
Vicki Johnson  
Kim Junkins  
Cathy Kuntzleman  
Jeremy Lopez  
Tom Martinez  
Karen Maust  
Corrine Pimm  
Gary Rarick  
Carl Richter  
Dona Roll  
Marian Shearer  
Courtney Taylor  
Jacob Thomas  
Rebecca West  
Scot Zaffora-Reeder

**Northern Plains****(3 allotted delegates; 3 sent)**

Kevin Cassidy-Maloney  
Patrick Hope  
Janel Kolar

**Ohio****(62 allotted delegates; 62 sent)**

Sarah Ahrens  
Tim Ahrens  
Brian Anders  
Jennifer Bannerman  
Mitzie Barnes  
Kaylene Biddle  
Elizabeth Blaufuss  
Lisa Bowersock  
Jim Brehler  
Jeanette Brodersen  
Skylark Bruce  
Sam Buehrer  
Brian Burke  
Carol Burke  
Tony Buss  
Judith Campbell  
Gunnar Cerda  
Jim Clausing  
Janice Corbin  
Donna Dorsch  
Dan Doty  
David Edmondson  
Liz Fiene  
Gary Friend  
Bob Gross  
Gary Halstead  
Susan Hartman  
Ruth Hopkins  
Susi Kawolics  
Russell Kimmerly  
Nick Knoblauch  
Jon Komperda  
Lenore Kure  
Bob Kutschbach  
Lynn Labs  
Lucas Lindon  
Keith McDevitt  
Darla Metz  
Joyce Oyler  
David Pattee



**Ohio (cont.)**

Fred Pfeiffer  
Minday Quellhorst  
Edie Recker  
Judy Reich  
Carl Robinson  
Richelle Romanchik  
John Schluep  
Tim Smith  
Betsey Stirbens  
Nevan Strobel-McCann  
Paul Sulser  
Adrian Sunday  
Sandy Thieman  
Karl Ulrich  
Mike Underhill  
Sam Waugaman  
Maureen Webber  
J. Stuart Wells  
Bertrice Wood  
Mark Young

**Penn Central (cont.)**

Paula Gustafson  
Dwight Hein  
Edwin Higginbottom  
James Hostetter  
Joel Hummel  
Phillip Landers  
Benjamin Mason  
Donald Mason  
Ellen Matten  
Walter Maust  
Susan Myers  
Cathie Oliphant  
Monica Ouellette  
Sigrid Plajer  
Sarah Rentzel-Jones  
Galen Russell  
MaryBeth Schmotzer  
Janis Taylor  
David Tietje  
Megan Waleff  
Carol Washburn

**Pacific Northwest**

**(6 allotted delegates; 6 sent)**

Nick CastroLang  
Sophia Crapson  
Tim Devine  
Dee Eisenhauer  
William Stanley  
Kristine Zakarison

**Penn Central**

**(29 allotted delegates; 29 sent)**

Larry Bean  
Carol Bender  
Daniel Bock  
Kay Boyer  
Robert Brandis  
Stephen Daniels  
Brent Frank  
Allison Frederick

**Penn Northeast**

**(26 allotted delegates; 24 sent)**

David Adams  
Carol Bastin  
Jeffrey Bauer  
Cassidy Bell  
Sara Jane Brace  
Rebecca Broyan  
Trudi Egan  
James Gottwald  
Dalice Hess  
Debra Hess  
Dawn Hummel  
Steven Hummel  
Nancy Kramer-Moyer  
Douglas Lander  
Keith Lenhart  
Joanne Marchetto  
Janice Metzger  
William Metzger  
Homer Royer  
Lee Schleicher  
Dorothy Sechler  
David Charles Smith  
Josiah Smith  
Hannah Snyder-Samuelson

**Penn West**

**(9 allotted delegates; 9 sent)**

Jill Clawson  
Steve Craft  
Matthew Deal  
Tony Fields  
Joyce Giebel  
Trevor Keim  
Gerald McCuller  
Wesley McDonald  
Cheryl Petrini

**Pennsylvania Southeast**

**(32 allotted delegates; 29 sent)**

David Balmer  
Morgan Bates  
Celestine Brooks  
Marvin Coldren  
Darryl Cruz  
Janis Edwards  
John Folk  
Selina Hamilton  
Steven Hamilton  
Ryan Henderson  
Rebecca Hoover  
Leslie Kearney  
Jane Kropa  
Charles Kuthuru  
JoAnne McGee  
Patrick Morris  
Janet Morton  
James Neal  
Ann-Therese Ortiz  
Nicholas Pence, Jr.  
William Pifer-Foote  
Darcy Reis  
Dorothy Shelly  
Robert Stewart  
Paul Sullivan  
Susan Wendt  
Lynn Wetzell  
Sue Wunderlich

**Rhode Island**

**(4 allotted delegates; 4 sent)**

Elizabeth Barnum  
Amy Frenze  
George Peters  
Violette Tanguay

**Rocky Mountain****(9 allotted delegates; 8 sent)**

Madaline Allsup  
Brenda Brown  
John Cattell  
Christopher Gilmore  
Greg Larsen  
Scott Lovaas  
Thomas Roberts  
Tim Sharp

**South Central****(10 allotted delegates; 10 sent)**

Sheila Angerer  
Dennis Bolin  
Ginny Brown Daniel  
Cathi Cline  
Anna Humble  
Debra Joseph  
Gerry Metzger  
Elizabeth Nash  
Leah Pantermuehl  
Anne Wehrly

**South Dakota****(7 allotted delegates; 7 sent)**

Kathy Apland  
Brittni Badger  
Kathleen Batchelder  
Leroy Bobtail Bear  
E. Howard Coker  
Enno Limvere  
Kylie Steever

**Southeast****(7 allotted delegates; 7 sent)**

Jennifer Austin  
Leah Lyman Waldron  
Carrole Moss  
Debbie Spearman  
Jennifer Spears  
Suzanne Tew-Washburn

**Southern****(21 allotted delegates; 20 sent)**

Shuford Abernethy  
Jamytta Cheryl Bell  
Jean Copeland  
Sheila Crump  
Barbara Eilers  
Jacquelyn Freeman  
Lisa Gaul  
Rammie Graves  
Dian Jackson  
Brenda James  
Henry John  
Anthony Neff  
Colleen Samson  
David Sampson  
Soug Sink  
Tyler Smith  
Robert Thompson  
Sharon Wheeler  
Bria Williams  
Carolyn Williams

**Southwest****(6 allotted delegates; 6 sent)**

Betty Bergthold  
Deborah Clugy-Soto  
Andria Davis  
Emmery Grooms  
James Meadows  
Len Silvester

**Vermont****(9 allotted delegates; 9 sent)**

Cynthia Batten  
Kathy Clark  
Rachel Cleary  
Abby Gackenheimer  
Emily Heath  
Rona Kinsley  
James Merriam  
Kyendamina Cleoplace Mukeba  
James Thomas

**Wisconsin**

**(34 allotted delegates; 34 sent)**

Linda Alsum-O'Donovan

Laurel Bentz

Cathy Burbury

Jill Christopherson

Joanna D'Agostino

Janice Davis

Matt Davis

Wayne Drueck

Doug Fauth

Richard Feyen

Nita Fitzgerald

Tom Fritz

Madeline Giordana

Brydie Hill

Lester Ingram

Jen Johnson

Evan Karg

Joan Kay

Rebecca Kesting

Jim Klein

Erik Koepnick

Chris Myers

Eric Ogi

Kerri Parker

Rachel Payden

Samuel Quist

Joel Schuler

Joshua Simon

Richard Steele

Dale Stohre

Darryl Thomas

Keith Weiland

Lucas Williams

Andi Wolf

## **APPENDIX A – REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Good afternoon. Thank you, Madam Moderator.

I'm Tony Fields from the Penn West Conference and I serve as the Chair of your Credentials Committee.

The committee is comprised of 10 delegates, in two classes, and our job is to monitor the composition of the Conference Delegations to the General Synod for their compliance with the diversity requirements as laid down in the UCC Bylaws.

The committee has met twice in recent months, first by conference all at the end of the winter when we review preliminary data from the Registrar. Following that meeting we directed Mr. Foley to be in contact with some Conferences we found to be struggling. This morning we met for the second time and reviewed the Final Report of the Registrar, dated June 13, 2013.

We can report that for the third time in the last four Synods, and for the second Synod in a row, the Delegation-as-a-Whole exceeds the Bylaws requirement for the number of delegates under the age of 30. And, it exceeds the requirement that at least 50 percent of the delegates be lay people, although we have found some individual Conferences to not be in compliance with that requirement and they will be contacted about improvement in 2015.

We find a tiny (less than 1 percent) fall-off from 2011 in racial and ethnic diversity. The continuing class of the Credentials Committee will be working with Mr. Foley and Ms. Susan Towner-Larsen from the national staff, talking with specific Conferences and the Council of Conference Ministers, to make improvements there.

There are other areas where individual Conference delegations are not in compliance or the spirit of the Bylaws and they will be contacted and advised improvement is needed, but it is my privilege to report to you that the Conferences of the United Church of Christ have made a good-faith effort to provide the diversity, by all categories, and the Committee has certified the Delegation-as-a-Whole to be in compliance with the Bylaws requirements.

It is the hope of the committee that the Conferences will continue to bring more racial and ethnic diversity to Synod, as the general trend has been over the past several Synods. It is the hope of the Committee that the Conferences will continue to seek out and bring to Synod younger people who are the future of the United Church of Christ. Ours is a diverse Church and more than in any other setting that diversity needs to be demonstrated here at General Synod.

God bless you.

Thank you, Madam Moderator.



## APPENDIX B

### Second Report of the Executive Council of the Twenty-ninth General Synod

Meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2013 in Long Beach, California the Executive Council took the following actions;

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-01**

to approve the Executive Council Agenda.

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-02**

to approve the minutes of the March 2013 Meeting of the Executive Council.

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-03**

to Grant Voice without Vote to Staff and Others Advising the Executive Council: Anita Bradshaw, Tracy Carnes, Don Clark, Lee Foley, Don Hill, Kathy Houston, Chris Noffke, Loey Powell, Susan Sanders, Christina Sattler, Denise Shimell, Kimberly Whitney.

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-04**

to receive the resignation of Ronald Hildahl as the representative of the Northern Plains Conference to the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-05**

that the Executive Council receive the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Certain Affiliated Entities December 31, 2012 Financial Report and SAS 114 letter.

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-06**

the Executive Council receives, with appreciation, the reports of The Pension Boards, the Collegium of Officers and the United Church Funds, as requested by the Chair of the Executive Council at the March 2013 meeting, regarding the implementation of the 2005 General Synod Resolution *Concerning the Use of Economic Leverage to Promote Peace in the Middle East*. The Executive Council directs the Secretary to forward the reports to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board for its consideration and whatever action it deems fit.

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-07**

the election of Margaret (Peggy) Bendroth as Chair of the United Church of Christ Historical Council for a term of two years, Class of 2015.

**It was VOTED  
13-06-EC-08**

the election of Jim Antal to the Office of Communication, Inc.,  
Board of Directors (current member).

the election of Sara Fitzgerald to the Office of Communication, Inc.,  
Board of Directors (current member).

the election of Sandra J. Gadsden to the Office of Communication, Inc.,  
Board of Directors (current member).

the election of W. Evan Golder to the Office of Communication, Inc.,  
Board of Directors (new member).

the election of Kimberly Knight to the Office of Communication, Inc.,  
Board of Directors (new member).

the election of Brian Lapis to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board of  
Directors (current member).

the election of Earl Williams to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board  
of Directors (current member).

**It was VOTED  
13-06-EC-09**

the Executive Council recommends the Twenty-ninth General  
Synod grant voice without vote to the listed resource people.

Rita Nakashima Brock	Theological Reflector
Quinn Caldwell	Theological Reflector
Ben Chavez	Wilmington 10 Observance
Donald Clark	General Counsel
Bob Frieberg	Podium Parliamentarian
Maria Hinojosa	2nd Plenary Speaker
Denise Page Hood	Delegate Parliamentarian
Kathy Houston	Chief Financial Officer
Bernice Powell Jackson	Wilmington 10 Observance
Peter Kajayama	4th Plenary Speaker
David Orr	6th Plenary Speaker
David Schoen	Team Leader-Evangelism Ministry
Richard Sparrow	Speak Out Coordinator
Karen Georgia Thompson	Ecumenical Officer
Derran Wimer	Co-chair 2015 Local Arrangements Committee
Sue Wimer	Co-chair 2015 Local Arrangements Committee

**It was VOTED  
13-06-EC-10**

the Executive Council receives the appointments of the following  
members, by the Chair, as Executive Council Liaisons to the Twenty-ninth  
General Synod's Committee Process Team; Jane Anderson, Jean Avison,



Marcia Charles, Hal Drury, Chris Hanson, David Long-Higgins, Doyle Luckenbaugh, Corliss Marsh, Doug McClelland, Ron Patterson, Kaji Spellman, Fredd Ward, Doug Wooten, Arlinda Wickland.

**It was VOTED  
13-06-EC-11**

the Executive Council Adopts the Report of the Committee of Reference which recommends:

The Executive Council receives the item of Business submitted to it by the June 7, 2013 deadline, and refers as follows:

A Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada qualifies under the “Could Not Have Been Anticipated” standing rule [ XII(F)3(c)(1)(ii) ] for consideration by the General Synod and recommends it be referred to a Committee of the General Synod.

Also, the Committee of Reference acknowledges that the March 2013 action recommending A Formal Motion of Affirmation of Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Churches go to committee, but because it is a Motion rather than a Resolution, its proper action is to go to a hearing and then to go directly to plenary

**It was VOTED  
13-06-EC-12**

the adoption of the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF MEMBERS/DIRECTORS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF  
THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
APPROVING  
AGREEMENT OF MERGER**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members, who are also the directors, of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, an Ohio public benefit corporation, present at a meeting duly called and held on June 27, 2013, the votes cast in favor of this resolution being at least equal to the quorum and all members casting votes being entitled to vote thereon:

**RESOLVED**, that the merger of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, an Ohio public benefit corporation, and Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), an Ohio public benefit corporation, into United Church of Christ Board, an Ohio public benefit corporation, pursuant to and in accordance with the Agreement of Merger attached hereto, be, and the same hereby is, approved and adopted;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chairperson and the Secretary of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to execute and deliver the aforesaid Agreement of Merger, with such changes as are acceptable to the foregoing officers, on behalf of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, and to prepare or cause to be prepared an appropriate certificate of merger and to execute such certificate as required and cause the same to be filed in the office of the Ohio Secretary of State; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the officers of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ be, and each of them is hereby, authorized and directed to take all such further action, execute and deliver all such other documents, and obtain all such other governmental approvals, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-13**

the Executive Council affirms the request of the governance committee of United Church Funds that Elections to UCF Board that the following people be elected to the corporate membership of United Church Funds:

**Class of 2019**

Kathy Dwyer\*  
William Epke  
Steven J. Guy  
Nesa Joseph  
Penny Lowes\*

**Class of 2017**

Wade Zick\*

\*Not currently serving

**It was VOTED**  
**13-06-EC-14**

the recommended approval of the Twenty-ninth General Synod Agenda by delegates to the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

+/-	Event
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 28, 2013</b> HEARINGS 120 Minutes</p>
1:00	Educational Intensives
3:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 28, 2013</b> PLENARY 1 120 Minutes</p> <p>Opening Music</p> <p>Moderator Welcome/Call to Order</p> <p>Welcome from the Host Conference</p> <p>Introduction of General Synod Leadership</p> <p>Report of the Credentials Committee/Organization of the General Synod</p> <p>Quorum Declared</p> <p>Explanation of Electronic Voting</p> <p>Adoption of the General Synod Agenda</p> <p>Adoption of the Standing Rules and Granting Voice to Resource Persons</p> <p>Designation of Groups Granted Voice Without Vote</p> <p>Second Notice of Ministry Boards to Alter their Memberships</p> <p>Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee</p> <p>Initial Report of the Executive Council including Introduction of Slate for Nominating Committee</p> <p>Committee of Reference Report/Empowering the Business Committee to Make Referrals of New Business for Action</p> <p>Introduction of New Business (by title only)</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>RECESS 5:00 pm</p> <p>Dinner</p>

+/-	Event
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 28, 2013</b>  <b>OPENING WORSHIP/PLENARY 2</b>  135 Minutes</p> <p>Gathering Music</p> <p>7:30 Call to Order</p> <p>Introduction of Honored Guests</p> <p>Re-Nomination and Speech of JWM Candidate</p> <p>Marriage Equality/Scarf Project</p> <p>Introduction of Ecumenical Guests</p> <p>Introduction of Overseas Guests/Haystack Video</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>RECESS 9:45 PM</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 29, 2013</b>  <b>PLENARY 3</b>  210 Minutes</p> <p>8:30 Worship</p> <p>Call to Order</p> <p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Collegium Report</p> <p>Re-Nomination and Speech of GMP</p> <p>Celebration of New Congregations</p> <p>Celebration of CHHSM 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</p> <p>Celebration of Wilmington 10</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p>

+/-	Event
	Maria Hinojosa
	RECESS NOON
	Lunch
	<b>SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 29, 2013</b> WORKSHOPS/SERVICE PROJECTS 180 Minutes
	Workshops/Service Projects/Meet the Candidates
	Luau
	<b>SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 29, 2013</b> 120 Minutes
7:30	Gathering Music
	Bernie Johnson Reagon and Toshi Reagon Concert
	<b>SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 30, 2013</b> 210 Minutes
9:00	Committees Meet
	Lunch/Sponsored Meals
	<b>SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 30, 2013</b> COMMITTEES AND WORSHIP 150 Minutes
2:00	Committees Meet
3:00	Community-Wide Worship

+/-	Event
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 30, 2013</b> HEARINGS 120 Minutes</p>
7:30	Hearings
	RECESS 9:30 PM
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 2013</b> PLENARY 4 210 Minutes</p>
8:30	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Re-Nomination and Speech of the Candidate for LCM</p> <p>Budget Presentation and Vote</p> <p>Committee Block A</p> <p>Music/Stretch Break</p> <p>Committee Block B</p> <p>Election of Officers/Recognition of Collegium</p> <p>Celebration of the Ministry of W. Mark Clark</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Lunch/Sponsored Meals</p>
2:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1, 2013</b> PLENARY 5 150 Minutes</p> <p>Call to Order</p> <p>Speak Out!</p>

+/-	Event
	<p>Committee Block C</p> <p>Election of United Church Board, Election of General Synod XXX Moderator and Assistant Moderator, Affirmation of Ex-Officio Members of UCCB, Election of General Synod Nominating Committee</p> <p>Committee Reports Block D</p> <p>Recognition of New and Retiring Conference Ministers</p> <p>Faith-In/Peter Kajayama Speech</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>RECESS 5:00 PM</p> <p>Dinner/Sponsored Meals</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONDAY EVENING, JULY 1, 2013</b> PLENARY 6 120 Minutes</p>
7:30	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Committee Block E</p> <p>Celebration of Pension Boards 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Transition Music</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>RECESS 9:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 2013</b> PLENARY 7 210 Minutes</p>
8:30	<p>Call to Order</p>

+/-	Event
	<p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Committee Block F</p> <p>Recognition of Mission 4/1 Earth</p> <p>Environmental Speaker-David Orr</p> <p>Celebration of Existing Structure and Boards</p> <p>Introduction of United Church Board Membership</p> <p>Committee Block G</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>RECESS NOON</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 2, 2013</b> PLENARY 8 150 Minutes</p>
2:30	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Committee Block H</p> <p>Recognition of National Staff</p> <p>Committee Block I</p> <p>Invitation to General Synod XXX</p> <p>Thanks/Recognition of the Local Arrangements Committee</p> <p>Announcements (including the Credentials Committee Report)</p> <p>Installation of New Moderator and Assistant Moderator</p> <p>Final Theological Reflection</p> <p>Motion to Adjourn at the Close of Evening Worship</p>



+/-	Event
	RECESS 5:00 PM  DINNER  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 2, 2013</b>  CLOSING WORSHIP</p>
7:30	Closing Worship

**It was VOTED  
13-06-EC-15**

the Executive Council makes no recommendation regarding the special application for Accreditation and Seating of AUCCIIM Non-Delegates Having Voice Without Vote at UCC General Synod 29.

**It was VOTED  
13-06-EC-16**

the waiver of Standing Rule 12, 3, C, (ii) of the Standing Rules of the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

**It was VOTED  
13-06-EC-16a**

the Executive Council sends the Affirmation of the Collegium’s Pastoral Letter Concerning the Defeat of the Manchin-Toomey Amendment to Senate Bill S649 directly to a plenary session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod and recommends affirmation of said letter.

**Text of the Pastoral Letter Released by the Collegium on April 17, 2013**

As the names of thousands of women, men, and children lost to gun violence echo across the grounds of the U.S. Capitol today, we are deeply disappointed by the failure of the U.S Senate to move forward with sensible, responsible legislation to address the scourge of gun violence by expanding background checks on commercial gun sales. Despite today's Senate vote against the Manchin-Toomey amendment to the Senate gun violence bill, we stand resolute and unwavering in our commitment to continue the work of ending gun violence in our society.

We simply cannot accept gun violence as the norm in our nation. It is nothing less than a moral imperative that our public policy reflects a commitment to lessening the toll that gun violence takes in communities throughout our country. While we recognize that no one piece of legislation in and of itself address the complex and multilayered context of gun violence, such common sense gun violence legislation can save lives, and we must take every action we can to keep our children, families and communities safe.

As people of faith, we know all too well the terrible toll that gun violence takes in our communities, year after year, day after day. The wounded, family members and friends of

victims are members of our congregations and our local communities. We hold them in our arms, sit with them in hospital emergency rooms, share the tears and the ache of loss, offer prayers of accompaniment, and gather in candlelight vigils.

It is deeply troubling that our elected officials have rejected a measure that has the support of over 90% of the American public, gun owners among them. We are heartened by the hopeful signs of bipartisan dialogue and partnership that have been evident in this debate, and we encourage lawmakers to summon the political courage to continue such efforts.

The faith community has come together many times in the aftermath of gun tragedies over the years to urge legislators to pass laws that would further prevent gun violence, and we will not falter in this critical work. We will continue to advocate for sensible, responsible gun violence prevention that strengthens background checks on gun purchases, addresses gun trafficking, bans military-style assault weapons and high capacity ammunition clips.

Since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School last December, over 3,000 women, men and children have been lost to gun violence. Words from the Gospel prod us, "Would that we knew the things that make for peace."

The UCC Collegium of Officers:

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President

The Rev. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries

The Rev. James A. Moos, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries

The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries

W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister

While the Senate was voting, names of people who have been killed by gun violence were read on the National Mall. One week earlier a makeshift grave with more than 3,300 markers, representing each person shot since Sandy Hook, lined the lawn outside the Capitol as a reminder of gun violence victims whose lives were lost.

Respectfully submitted;

Chris Noffke-Recording Secretary

Lee Foley-Secretary to the Corporation

The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ

June 27, 2013

## APPENDIX C

### FIRST REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION, POLICY AND ECUMENICAL ISSUES

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES</b>
------------------------------

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**It was VOTED**  
**11-11-EC-02** to adopt the printed agenda.

#### APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

**It was VOTED**  
**11-11-EC-03.a-g** to approve the Consent Agenda as found on the Agenda of the November 10-13, 2011 Executive Council Meeting (EC-11-11-01).

The consent agenda included the following actions:

- a.** Grant voice without vote to members of the Executive Council staff and others making presentations before the Executive Council and its committees: those granted voice are Bentley de Bardelaben, Christina Chapple, Jennifer Craig, Don Clark, Lee Foley, Ann Hanson, Jane Heckles, Don Hill, Kathy Houston, Ann Kiernozek, Chris Noffke, Barb Powell, Susan Sanders, Mark Thomas, Karen Georgia Thompson, Susan Towner-Larsen, Kimberly Whitney.
- b.** Approve the June 2011 Executive Council Minutes.
- c.** Approve the corrected Minutes of the Twenty-eighth General Synod, as presented by the panel of Executive Council proofreaders.
- d.** Receive the resignation of Josh Whistler as the representative of the Southwest Conference to the Executive Council.
- e.** The election of the Rev. J. Matthew Deal (Class of 2013) as the Chair of the Twenty-ninth General Synod Nominating Committee, in compliance with ¶200 c) of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ (2010 ed.) and Executive Council Standing Rule 23.
- f.** The election of the Rev. Tony Fields (Class of 2013) as the Chair of the Twenty-ninth General Synod Credentials Committee, in compliance with ¶207 of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ (2010 ed.) and Executive Council Standing Rule 24.
- g.** Adoption of the following distribution for Conference Delegates to the Twenty-ninth General Synod, totaling 677: in compliance with paragraph 189 of the Bylaws of the United Church of

Christ (2010 ed.) the distribution of Conference Delegates to the Twenty-ninth General Synod is based on Conference membership, as listed in the 2011 United Church of Christ Yearbook. Although the calculation is based on 675 delegates, the actual total number of Conference Delegates is set at 677. This occurs because paragraph 189 states no Conference shall be allocated fewer than three delegates. The distribution schedule follows;

Total UCC membership = 1,058,423 ÷ 675 = 1,568 members = 1 delegate

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Members</u>				<u>Delegates</u>
California-N/Nevada	016,100 ÷	1,568	=	10.27	10
California-S/Nevada	019,240 ÷	1,568	=	12.27	12
Calvin Synod	002,360 ÷	1,568	=	01.51	03
Central Atlantic	027,325 ÷	1,568	=	17.43	17
Central Pacific	007,197 ÷	1,568	=	04.59	05
Connecticut	079,481 ÷	1,568	=	50.69	51
Florida	025,006 ÷	1,568	=	15.95	16
Hawaii	016,275 ÷	1,568	=	10.38	10
Illinois	076,946 ÷	1,568	=	49.07	49
Illinois-South	024,336 ÷	1,568	=	15.52	16
Indiana-Kentucky	029,032 ÷	1,568	=	18.52	19
Iowa	032,048 ÷	1,568	=	20.44	20
Kansas-Oklahoma	009,606 ÷	1,568	=	06.13	06
Maine	019,234 ÷	1,568	=	12.27	12
Massachusetts	071,735 ÷	1,568	=	45.75	46
Michigan	031,561 ÷	1,568	=	20.13	20
Minnesota	029,750 ÷	1,568	=	18.70	19
Missouri-Mid-South	033,788 ÷	1,568	=	21.55	22
Montana-No. Wyo.	004,537 ÷	1,568	=	02.89	03
Nebraska	015,734 ÷	1,568	=	10.03	10
New Hampshire	022,107 ÷	1,568	=	14.10	14
New York	036,714 ÷	1,568	=	23.41	23
Northern Plains	005,090 ÷	1,568	=	03.25	03
Ohio	097,548 ÷	1,568	=	62.21	62
Pacific Northwest	009,594 ÷	1,568	=	06.12	06
Penn Central	045,081 ÷	1,568	=	28.77	29
Penn Northeast	040,169 ÷	1,568	=	25.62	26
Pennsylvania SE	050,065 ÷	1,568	=	31.93	32
Penn West	014,583 ÷	1,568	=	09.30	09
Rhode Island	006,457 ÷	1,568	=	04.12	04
Rocky Mountain	013,764 ÷	1,568	=	08.78	09
South Central	015,241 ÷	1,568	=	09.72	10
South Dakota	010,512 ÷	1,568	=	06.70	07
Southeast	011,058 ÷	1,568	=	07.05	07
Southern	032,388 ÷	1,568	=	20.66	21
Southwest	008,851 ÷	1,568	=	05.64	06
Vermont	013,905 ÷	1,568	=	08.87	09
Wisconsin	054,005 ÷	1,568	=	34.44	34

---

677

## ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**It was VOTED**

**12-03-EC-01**

to adopt the printed agenda as amended.

## APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

**It was VOTED**

**12-03-EC-03.a-c**

to approve the Consent Agenda as found on the Agenda of the March 16-17, 2012 Executive Council Meeting (EC-12-03-01).

The consent agenda included the following actions:

**a.** Grant voice without vote to the following staff members and others making presentations before the March 2012 meeting of the Executive Council and its committees; Ms. Tracy Carnes, Ms. Chris Cheline, Ms. Elizabeth Clement, Mr. Don Clark, Mr. Bentley deBardelaben, Mr. Lee Foley, Ms. Ann Hanson, Ms. Jane Heckles, Mr. Don Hill, Ms. Kathy Houston, Ms. Ann Kiernozeck, Ms. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Mr. Chris Noffke, Ms. Ann Poston, Ms. Susan Sanders, Ms. Christina Sattler, Mr. Mark Thomas, Ms. Karen Georgia Thompson, Ms. Susan Towner-Larsen and Ms. Kimberly Whitney.

**b.** Approve the Minutes of its November 2011 meeting, as posted and circulated by the Secretary of the Corporation.

**c.** Receive appointments to the Governance Implementation Task Force by the Chair, the creation of which was requested by the Collegium of Officers. The appointees are; Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark Chair, 2009-2011 UGov Chair Mr. Bernard Wilson-member from the Executive Council, Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks-member from the Executive Council, Mr. Geoffrey Brace-member from the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors, Ms. Sue Artt-member from the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors, Ms. Pat Barnes-McConnell-member from the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors, Ms. Barbara Kershner Daniel-member from the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors, Mr. Rich Pleva-member from the Council of Conference Ministers, 2009-2011 UGov facilitator Ms. Jacquie McLemore-member, A Proposal for Unified Governance Co-Author Ms. Anita Bradshaw-member and facilitator, Minister for Governing Body Relations Mr. Lee Foley-member, and staff and Special Assistant to the Collegium of Officers Ms. Kimberly Whitney-member and staff.

## ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**It was VOTED**

**13-03-EC-01**

to adopt the printed agenda.

## **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**It was VOTED**  
**13-03-EC-02a-c**

to approve the Consent Agenda as found on the Agenda of the March 9, 2013 Executive Council Meeting.

The consent agenda included the following items:

- a. to approve the Minutes of the October 2012 Meeting of the Executive Council;
- b. to receive the Minutes of the November 2012 Meeting of the Executive Council's Executive Committee; and
- c. to accept the resignation of Anita Louise Poole as a member of the Executive Council, representing the Illinois-South Conference.

### **ELECTION OF GARY SCHULTE TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**It was VOTED**  
**13-03-EC-03**

to elect Mr. Gary Schulte to the Executive Council as a representative (New England Region) of the Council of Conference Ministers to a term ending with the conclusion of the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

### **GRANT VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

**It was VOTED**  
**13-03-EC-04**

to grant voice without vote to the following persons: David Anderson, Tracy Carnes, Elizabeth Clement, Chris Cheline, Don Clark, Davida Crabtree, Bentley de Bardelaben, Lee Foley, Jane Heckles, Don Hill, Kathy Houston, Ann Kiernozek, Peter Makari, Chris Noffke, Loey Powell, Susan Sanders, Christina Sattler, Denise Shimell, Ches Sumpter, Mark Thomas, Karen Georgia Thompson, Susan Towner-Larsen, and Kimberly Whitney.

### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS SUBMITTED TO THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

**It was VOTED**  
**13-03-EC-05**

Executive Council receives items of business submitted to the Twenty-ninth General Synod and recommends referral as follows:

- 1. Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery Which Authorized the Genocide of Indian People and the Theft of Indian Lands**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.

- 2. On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 3. Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 4. Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 5. Resolution Calling for an All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Member in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ**  
*A Prudential Resolution*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 6. Resolution Urging Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 7. A Resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ**  
*A Prudential Resolution*  
The Executive Council recommends referral directly to a plenary of the General Synod.
- 8. Advocating for Tax Reform as Christian Stewardship and Public Duty**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 9. The United Samoan Ministries of the United Church of Christ Request to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group and Member of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries**  
*A Prudential Resolution*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 10. To recognize the need for compassionate care and healing to our veterans**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 11. Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.
- 12. Resolution on Advocating for Funding to Construct Quality Affordable Housing**  
*A Resolution of Witness*  
The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.

**13. Restructuring of Conference Boundaries**

*A Prudential Resolution*

The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.

**14. A Call to Respond to the Drug-Related Gang Violence in Honduras Resulting from the Illegal Drugs Market in the United States**

*A Resolution of Witness*

The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.

**15. Resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants**

*A Resolution of Witness*

The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.

**Affirmation of Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries**

*A Prudential Resolution*

The Executive Council recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod.

**PORTAGE LAKE CHURCH**

**It was VOTED**

**13-03-EC-06**

at the request of the Portage Lake United Church of Christ in Houghton, Michigan, the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Association of the Wisconsin Conference and the Wisconsin and Michigan Conferences of the United Church of Christ, the Executive Council approves of Portage Lake United Church of Christ, of Houghton, Michigan entering into ecclesiastic covenant as a member local church of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ.

**DESIGNATION OF OFFERINGS FROM THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

**It was VOTED**

**13-03-EC-20**

the designation of the offerings from the Twenty-ninth General Synod as follows: the Southern California-Nevada Conference Leadership Academy as the recipient of the Friday evening worship offering, Our Church's Wider Mission as the recipient of the Sunday worship offering and the Tuesday Evening offering split evenly among the United Church of Christ Scholarships for Ministerial Preparations.



## **BUDGET AND FINANCE ISSUES**

### **2011 AUDIT AND RELATED MATERIALS**

**It was VOTED  
11-11-EC-08**

the Executive Council receives the December 31, 2010 United Church of Christ Combined Financial Report and SAS 114 letter.

### **NATIONAL SUPPORT ALLOCATION BASE**

**It was VOTED  
11-11-EC-09**

(3 abstentions) the Executive Council approves the National Basic Support allocation base of \$7,100,000 for 2012. The resulting funding for each Ministry is EC \$770,190 (10.848%), OGM \$1,857,215 (26.158%), JWM \$1,069,720 (15.066%), LCM \$1,770,114 (24.931%), WCM \$1,198,122 (16.875%) and PB \$434,639 (6.122%)

### **2012 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BUDGET**

**It was VOTED  
11-11-EC-10**

the Executive Council adopts the 2012 Executive Council Budget of \$770,190.

### **SUPPLEMENTATION OF SMALL ANNUITIES**

**It was VOTED  
11-11-EC-11**

(As amended) the Executive Council authorizes the Pension Boards to pay supplementation of small annuities, effective January 1, 2012 based on an income level of \$26,000 with three-fourths of that amount as the level applicable in determining supplementation for a deceased member's surviving spouse/partner.

### **CORRECTION TO THE 2011 GENERAL SYNOD CONFERENCE TRAVEL POOL**

**It was VOTED  
11-11-EC-12**

the Executive Council asks the CFO to contact the conferences that have 2011 travel pool dollars due them and ask the debt be forgiven. For those conferences that do not have the resources to forgive the obligation, we will honor the obligation and add the payments to the 2011 General Synod operating deficit.

## **STEPS NECESSARY TO OFFSET A PROJECTED DEFICIT IN THE 2012 BUDGET**

**It was VOTED  
11-11-EC-13**

the Executive Council authorizes staff to withdraw funds to offset the 2011 General Synod operating deficit from the EC Endowment Fund; not to exceed \$250,000. The final amount of the deficit/withdrawal is to be reported to the Committee at their Spring, 2012 meeting.

### **2013 GENERAL SYNOD TRAVEL POOL**

**It was VOTED  
11-11-EC-14**

the Executive Council approves that the travel pool dollars for General Synod 2013 be calculated at a flat rate of \$.0525 per mile. Further, that the cost and formula for supporting conference travel be discussed as part of the ongoing discussion and consideration of the cost and frequency of the meetings of General Synod.

## **ALLOCATION OF SHORTFALL IN BASIC SUPPORT**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-12**

the Executive Council authorizes the Financial Services staff to allocate the shortfall in Basic Support receipts (\$85,639.16) from the budgeted amount after adjusting for savings in the Executive Council net revenues and expenses (\$54,210.00) to the Covenanted Ministries and The Pension Boards recognizing that the resulting calculations will affect the approved percentages as presented at the October, 2010 meeting of the Executive Council.

The resulting net charge to each is EC \$54,210.00, OGM \$7,086.79, JWM \$5,452.79, LCM \$9,240.79, WCM \$7,432.79 and PB \$2,216.00.

The resulting effective allocation percentages for 2011 are EC 9.863%, OGM 26.376%, JWM 15.385%, LCM 25.099%, WCM 17.257% and PB 6.019%.

### **2013 GENERAL SYNOD REGISTRATION FEES**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-13**

the Executive Council establishes the registration fees for the 2013 General Synod at the following rates:

Adults

Full Registration: \$225 for delegates, associate delegates, all staff, exhibitors and visitors

Three Day Registration: \$175

Partial Registration: \$75 for visitors who attend for a single day. (Available only to visitors)

Youth

\$150 for youth ages 18 and under

Local Registration Fee

\$75 for local area volunteers as designated by Conference staff and planner

Meeting Space During Synod

Morning Caucus	\$75
Workshop Space	\$275
Sponsored Meals	\$375
After Hour Events	\$500
24 Hour Space	\$750

Exhibit Booths

National – 1 <sup>st</sup> 10x10	\$900
National – additional space	\$350 each
Outside – 1 <sup>st</sup> 10x10	\$500 (still pay \$225 registration)
Outside - additional space	\$350 each

Pre Synod Events

All Day Event	\$600
Half Day Event	\$300

As the cost of the General Synod is supported in large part by the cost of registration, all participants must register for Synod, thus sharing in the support of this event in the life of the Church.

**NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION**

**It was VOTED  
13-03-EC-09**

To recommend that the Executive Council adopt and recommend to General Synod for adoption: 1) a National Basic Support allocation based on \$6.304 million for the budget year 2014 and \$6.017 million for the budget year 2015; and 2) that the percentage allocations for 2014 and 2015 be based on the recommendation of the United Church of Christ Board.

## ALLOCATION OF EXCESS BASIC SUPPORT RECEIPTS

It was VOTED

13-03-EC-10

To recommend that the Executive Council authorize Financial Services staff to allocate the excess Basic Support receipts over the budgeted amount (\$174,193) and excess revenues of the Executive Council (\$25,000) to decrease the StillSpeaking Initiative deficit balance.

### ADDITION OF WORDS TO MOTION

It was VOTED

13-03-EC-11

to add additional words to the motion: *withdraw funds when needed* and *in order* to supplement cash flow.

It was VOTED

13-03-EC-12

To recommend that the Executive Council authorize the General Minister & President, in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officer, to withdraw funds *when needed* from the Executive Council Endowment Fund at United Church Funds to decrease the StillSpeaking Initiative deficit balance when needed *in order* to supplement the cash flow of the Covenanted Ministries.

## EVALUATION & PLANNING ISSUES

### REVISED TRAVEL POLICY

It was VOTED

11-11-EC-15

(2 Nos) the Executive Council adopts the Revised Travel Policy recommended by the Evaluation, Policy, and Planning Committee including the provisions that the 30 day travel reservation policy be reduced to 21 days. It also recommends that there is a specific reference for reimbursement of any additional costs related to disability access.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE CHHSM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It was VOTED

11-11-EC-16

the Executive Council adopts the Proposed Changes in the Make a Difference CHHSM Scholarship Fund, which indicates that, in the first sentence of the proposal, the reference to UCC be dropped.

## **REPORT ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS**

**It was VOTED**

**12-03-EC-14**

The Executive Council affirms the *Report on the Twenty-eighth General Synod Adopted Resolutions and Other Business Items*, with two exceptions;

A.) No report on Covenant on Youth Ministries was submitted.

B.) No report on To Form a Theological Forum was submitted.

The Committee requests that the Executive Council create a task force comprised equally of representatives of each of the (Affirming Health Care Coverage for United Church of Christ Authorized Ministers and Their Families) Resolution's named constituencies, including the sponsor of the resolution, the Pacific-Northwest Conference.

## **REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES**

**It was VOTED**

**12-03-EC-15**

The Executive Council adopts the *Report from the Committee on Disabilities*.

## **OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION ALLOCATIONS ALIGNING WITH RESOLUTIONS OF GENERAL SYNOD**

**It was VOTED**

**12-03-EC-16**

The Evaluation, Policy and Planning Committee (EP&P) of the Executive Council (EC) moves to acknowledge and affirm Justice and Witness Ministries' (JWM's) concern about Our Church's Wider Mission allocations aligning with Resolutions of General Synod. As JWM takes further steps to make more specific recommendations to the EC, particularly around changes to the General Synod Resolution process, EP&P, as the body that monitors the progress and implementation of General Synod Resolutions, would like to work closely with the appropriate representatives of JWM, the Organizational Life and Budget & Finance committees of the EC, The Pension Boards and the other covenanted ministries, to report back to the EC at its April 2013 meeting with recommendations for next steps.

## **UCC CALENDAR DATE WORKING COMMITTEE**

**It was VOTED**

**12-03-EC-17** The Executive Council authorizes a Designated UCC Calendar Date Working Committee to consult on a needs basis to consider and determine new named date requests as well as make any updates or date shifts that are needed. The committee will consist of staff working directly with the Calendar, Worship, and the LCM Executive Minister or designee, consulting more widely if needed and as appropriate due to the nature and special focus of a request. The EP&P Committee requests a report from the Calendar Date Working Committee at its fall 2012 meeting.

### **REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDER AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES**

**It was VOTED**

**13-03-EC-07** to receive the report from the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM).

## **ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE ISSUES**

### **ELECTION OF ROBERT GROVE-MARKWOOD TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**It was VOTED**

**11-11-EC-01** to elect Mr. Robert Grove-Markwood as a member of the Executive Council

### **ELECTION OF PERSONS TO RESPECTIVE POSITIONS**

**It was VOTED**

**11-11-EC-04** to elect the following persons to these respective positions.

#### **For Election to the Executive Council**

1. the election of Dwayne Royster to the Executive Council as a representative of the Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice, Class of 2017.

#### **For Election to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors**

2. the election of DeEtte (Dee) Lundberg to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Rocky Mountain Conference, Class of 2013.

3. the election of Kelli Parrish Lucas to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, Class of 2013.

**For Election to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors**

4. the election of Robbie Carlson to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors as representative of the Rocky Mountain Conference, Class of 2015.
5. the election of John Selders to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice, Class of 2017.

**For Election to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors**

6. the election of Lee Barrett to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ, Class of 2013.
7. the election of Toni Dunbar, to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice, Class of 2015.
8. the election of Richard Reinwald to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Illinois Conference, Class of 2017.
9. the election of Liza Torres to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Council for Hispanic Ministries, Class of 2017.

**For Election to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors**

10. the election of Robert Molsberry to the Office of General Ministries, as a representative of the Council of Conference Ministers, Class of 2013.

**AMENDED STANDING RULES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
FOR THE 2011-13 BIENNIUM**

**It was VOTED**

**11-11-EC-05**

in compliance with Executive Council Standing Rule 32, approves the Executive Council Standing Rules, as amended, for the 2011-13 biennium.

**AMENDED GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE CODE  
FOR THE 2011-13 BIENNIUM**

**It was VOTED**

**11-11-EC-06**

in compliance with Executive Council action **7-03-EC-28** approval of the General Synod Nominating Code, as amended, for the 2011-13 biennium.

**DIRECTIVE TO THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF SLATES OF  
CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AT THE TWENTY-NINTH  
GENERAL SYNOD**

**It was VOTED  
11-11-EC-07**

the Executive Council directs the General Synod Nominating Committee to prepare a single slate of candidates for election by the Twenty-ninth General Synod to the Unified Board, under provisions of the Proposal for Unified Governance, as adopted by the Executive Council in October 2010, and under the provisions of the enabling amendments to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, as adopted by the Twenty-eighth General Synod in July 2011. Further, the Executive Council directs the Nominating Committee to be prepared to act during the summer of 2013 to build slates of candidates for the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministry Boards of Directors, Classes of 2019, for election by the Executive Council in September 2013 in the event the proposed structure is not implemented.

**ELECTION OF SHEILA RUBDI TO THE LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-02**

to elect Ms. Sheila Rubdi to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors as an At-large Representative, Class of 2013 and to the Executive Council as a representative of the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors, Class of 2013.

**STANDING RULES OF THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-05**

the Executive Council adopts the Standing rules of the Twenty-ninth General Synod as updated and revised.

**ELECTION OF JEANETTE CARPENTER SCREIBER AND JANE  
TEDDER TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENSION BOARDS**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-06**

The Executive Council declares Jeanette Carpenter Schreiber and Jane Tedder eligible for election to the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, Inc.



**ELECTION OF STEPHANIE DOESCHOT, WILLIAM EDWARDS,  
MARJORIE ELLIS, MARTA RODRIQUEZ, AND BERMIN LANGBATA  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-07**

the election of Stephanie Doeschot to the Executive Council as a non-voting representative of the Reformed Church in America, Class of 2013;

the election of William Edwards to the Executive Council as a representative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Class of 2013;

the election of Marjorie Ellis to the Executive Council as a non-voting representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Class of 2013;

the election of Marta Rodriguez to the Executive Council as a non-voting representative of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Class of 2013;

the election of Bermin Langbata to the Executive Council as a representative of the Southwest Conference, Class of 2013.

**ELECTION OF DONALD BARNES, ROXANNE GOULD, AND LAURI  
HASLER TO THE JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-08**

the election of Donald Barnes to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of The Pension Boards, Class of 2013;

the election of Roxanne Gould to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Council of American Indian Ministries, Class of 2015;

the election of Lauri Hasler to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Southwest Conference, Class of 2013.

**ELECTION OF DOUGLAS LANDER AND FREDERICK YOUNG TO THE LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-09**

the election of Douglas Lander to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Penn Northeast Conference, Class of 2017;

the election of Frederick Young to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Penn Central Conference, Class of 2015.

**ELECTION OF JOHN KLEIMAN TO THE OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-10**

the election of John Kleiman to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of The Pension Boards, Class of 2013.

**THE ELECTION OF NICHOLAS BERROTH TO THE WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**It was VOTED  
12-03-EC-11**

the election of Nicholas Berroth to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, Class of 2013.

**HONORARY TELLERS TO THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

**It was VOTED  
13-03-EC-13**

in compliance with Rule 25 of the Standing Rules to the Executive Council, the appointment of the 12 member Southern California-Nevada Conference Delegation as Honorary Tellers to the Twenty-ninth General Synod. Those delegates are; Kathie Blakley, Sally Buffington, Paul Clay, Melissa Fine, Sam Greening, Sandy Healy, Kevin Johnson, Paul Lance, Alison Morales, Diane Ryder, Madison Shockley and Karen Steward.

**GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

**It was VOTED  
13-03-EC-14**

in accordance with Section 207 of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ (2010 Ed.), the Executive Council appoints the named delegates to the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth General Synods to the General Synod Credentials Committee, Class of 2015;

Debora Blood, Carol Burke, John LaMasters, Anita Saunders and Kalani Wong and the following delegates to the Twenty-ninth General Synod to the Class of 2013, filling vacancies, Celestine Brooks and Diana K. Jahn.

## **VOICE WITHOUT VOTE – TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

### **It was VOTED**

**13-03-EC-15**

the Executive Council recommends the following listed groups be granted voice without vote at the Twenty-ninth General Synod in compliance with Rule 10 of the Standing Rules of the Twenty-ninth General Synod;

- 1—UCC Military Chaplains
- 2—Faithful and Welcoming Churches
- 3—Association of United Church Educators

## **HISTORICAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

### **It was VOTED**

**13-03-EC-16**

the election of Brenda Billips Square, African American female holding Ministerial Authorization, 60+, to serve on the Historical Council as a Member at Large in the Class of 2019;

the election of Yvonne V. Delk, African American female, 60+, to serve on the Historical Council as a Member at Large in the class of 2019.

## **PENSION BOARDS ELECTION**

### **It was VOTED**

**13-03-EC-17**

to declare Curtis O. Rueter eligible for election to the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards – United Church of Christ, Inc.

## **GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

### **It was VOTED**

**13-03-EC-18**

the nomination of the accompanying list of 14 members of the United Church of Christ to the General Synod Nominating Committee, for election by the Twenty-ninth General Synod, in compliance with Bylaws (2013Ed.) paragraph 201.

Megan Culbertson  
Marlene Helgemo  
Daryl Malena  
Angela Myers  
Chandra Soans

Dan De Leon  
Pierson Kemp  
Drew McLaren  
Bladimer Paeste  
Ivy Tillman

Christina Held  
Sharon MacArthur  
Ann Mellott  
Eric C. Smith

**ELECTION OF MARY WELLS NELSON ABBOTT TO  
JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**It was VOTED  
13-03-EC-19**

the election of Mary Wells Nelson Abbott to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors as the representative of the Vermont Conference, Class of 2013.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Good afternoon. Thank you Madam Moderator.

I'm Matt Deal, Pastor of Saint Paul's UCC in Somerset, Pennsylvania and I bring you greetings from the Penn West Conference.

It has been my honor to serve as the Chair of the Twenty-ninth General Synod Nominating Committee and to serve alongside the other 25 dedicated members of the committee and its staff.

The First Report of the Nominating Committee, the slate of nominees for election to the United Church of Christ Board, was posted for delegate review on February 8, 2013. It was amended in mid-June due to a candidate withdrawing and another nominee being selected. The Second Report of the Nominating Committee, the nominees for Moderator and Assistant Moderator, was posted on April 2, 2013.

The entire membership of the Nominating Committee proudly endorses these members of the UCC who we are presenting to you and proud of the process by which they were selected.

With the anticipated enactment of the new governance structure the work of this Nominating Committee has been much different than for previous Synods. By directive of your Executive Council, we were tasked with seeking candidates for selection as nominees to but 36 at-large positions on the new United Church of Christ Board, not the nearly 100 nominees our processors selected under the out-going structure.

It caused the Committee and its staff to completely rethink and overhaul the process it had been refining for the past several years, a process that has become such a well-structured, fair and equitable Synod function. Our goal was to maintain the integrity of the system and at the same time attract and place for nomination the very finest and diverse three-dozen members of the Church that we could find.

The response to our call for candidates was overwhelming. Over 250 members of the United Church of Christ consented to be considered for nomination for the 36 positions. The quality and caliber of these candidates was stunning; many of the UCC's best and brightest sought nomination and that made the work of the Nominating Committee so very difficult as we anguished between one remarkable and gifted candidate and another equally talented and devoted member of the UCC. Selecting just 36 nominees turned out to be a much more time-intensive and painstaking task than any of us had expected. It was, for some of us, the most difficult decisions we had ever made as we constructed the slate of candidates before you. It was as time-intensive and deliberate, more deliberate, than choosing candidates under the out-going structure.

The same holds true regarding our selections for Moderator and Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod; we labored between so many fine individuals in making our final decisions.

We believe our efforts have been well worthwhile. We believe we have presented to you an outstanding group of individuals, caring, dedicated and blessed by God's grace to comprise the first classes of the new United Church of Christ Board of Directors and for Moderator and Assistant Moderator to serve as the leadership of the Thirtieth General Synod.

Ms. Moderator, on behalf of all 26 members of the Twenty-ninth General Synod Nominating Committee I formally submit to Synod the First and Second Reports of the Nominating Committee, as posted on the UCC website, and urge the election of those outstanding nominees by delegates to the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

Thank you and God bless you.

## APPENDIX E

### AMENDED FIRST REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By unanimous vote, the Twenty-ninth General Synod Nominating Committee has selected the following 36 members\* of the United Church of Christ for nomination as members at-large and is placing their names before the Twenty-ninth General Synod, meeting June 28-July 2, 2013 in Long Beach, California, for election to the United Church of Christ Board. Each and every person that came before the Nominating Committee was carefully and individually considered. The Committee was blessed with a deep and rich pool of over 200 nominees of superior ability, attributes, skills and experience.

So, it is with thanks to God and with high esteem that the Committee presents these outstanding individuals to the General Synod for election to the United Church of Christ Board.

Rev. J. Matthew Deal  
Chair-the Twenty-ninth General Synod Nominating Committee

February 8, 2013

\* *The First Report of the Nominating Committee was amended on June 11, 2013 to reflect the nomination of Kimberly Wood, replacing Sharon Prestemon who withdrew from consideration upon her call as Minnesota Conference Minister.*

#### **For Election to the United Church of Christ Board**

**Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez** is a Hispanic-American female, 50-59, who is a social services counselor. She holds Ministerial Authorization and is the Pastor of Manantial de Gracia UCC in New Britain, Connecticut. Holding an Ed.D., with emphasis on counseling, Ms. Angulo de Gonzalez has worked in the mental health field for the past 20 years as a counselor, administrator and program director at various mental health agencies and in private practice. She serves on the boards of directors of several counseling agencies and shelters. Ms. Angulo de Gonzalez was nominated through the Council for Hispanic Ministries. She will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Pat Barnes-McConnell** is an African-American lay female, 60+, who holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology. She is a member of St. Stephen's Community UCC in Lansing, Michigan. She is a retired Professor from Michigan State University where she served as director for an international agricultural program for 20 years. Ms. Barnes-McConnell is a member of the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors and served on the Governance Implementation Taskforce. Ms. Barnes-McConnell self-nominated as a member of the Office of General Ministries Board. She will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Joyce Bathke** is a European-American lay female, 60+, who holds a Nursing Degree. She is a member of Faith United Church of Christ in Wentzville, Missouri. She is a Regional Chief Administrative Officer for the American Red Cross and before that served a local hospital. Ms. Bathke currently serves on the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors, is the Chair of its Budget Committee and its Audit Committee. Ms. Bathke sits on the Global Ministries Board of Directors, Co-chair of its Finance Committee. Ms. Bathke self-nominated as a member of the Wider Church Ministries Board. She will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Caroline Belsom** is a Chinese-American lay female, 60+, who is an attorney. She is a member of Waiola UCC in Lahaina, Hawaii. Ms. Belsom is in private practice after formerly serving as General Counsel to Kapalua Land Company. She is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa. Prior to her law career she was a school teacher and holds a Master's Degree in Physics. Ms. Belsom is a former Assistant Moderator of the General Synod and served on its Executive Council. She was nominated through the Hawaii Conference. Ms. Belsom will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Lynda Bigler** is a European-American female, 50-59, who holds Ministerial Authorization with an M.Div. She is a member of Ainsworth UCC in Portland, Oregon. Ms. Bigler serves on the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries and is the Vice-chair of the Virginia Kryer Scholarship Fund for Theological Studies, benefiting students with disabilities. Prior to entering the ministry Ms. Bigler was a banker. She served as the Pension and Investment Banking Operations Officer of Bankers' Trust in New York and served other banks in New York, Pittsburgh and Providence, Rhode Island. Ms. Bigler was nominated through the Disabilities Ministries. She will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Frank Bolden** is an African-American lay male, 60+, who is an attorney. He is a member of Christ Church UCC in Summit, New Jersey. Mr. Bolden is retired from the Johnson & Johnson Company where he served as Corporate Secretary, Associate General Counsel and Vice-president for Diversity. Prior to his work at Johnson & Johnson he was in private practice. Mr. Bolden is a former Army Airborne Ranger Infantry Officer. He previously served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and on the Board of Trustees of Atlantic Healthcare System. Mr. Bolden was nominated through the Central Atlantic Conference. He will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Dale Bonds** is an African-American lay female, 60+, and retired from the IBM Corporation as a Systems Availability Engineer with a BA in mathematics. She is a member of Central St. Matthew UCC in New Orleans. Ms. Bonds is a Katrina survivor, rebuilding her home after the storm and instrumental in combining two devastated congregations into the vibrant Central St. Matthew. Ms. Bonds is the President of the Board of Directors of the UCC Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. She currently serves as Assistant Moderator of the General Synod and on its Executive Council. Ms. Bonds was nominated through the South Central Conference. She will serve in the Class of 2017.



**Geoffrey Brace** is a European-American lay male, 30-39, who is a Legislative Aide to Pennsylvania State Representative Mike Schlossberg. Mr. Brace is a member of Zion Reformed UCC in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy. Before joining the legislative staff Mr. Brace served as the Executive Director of the Kutztown Community Partnership. He currently serves as the Penn Northeast Conference Moderator. He sits on the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors and served on the Governance Implementation Taskforce. Mr. Brace was nominated through the Penn Northeast Conference. He will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Faith Burgess** is a Japanese-American lay female, 60+, who is a retired special education school teacher. She is a member of San Carlos Community UCC in San Carlos, California. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education and has taught in Hawaii and in various districts in and around San Francisco. She has served as the Vice-moderator of the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries. She currently serves on the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors and self-nominated as a member of the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors through the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries. She will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Robbie Carlson** is a European-American lay male, 19-29, who is a Director of Christian Education. He is a member of Faith UCC in Windsor, Colorado. He served two terms as a Youth Representative to the Rocky Mountain Conference Board of Directors and served on the search committee for its Conference Minister. He served as a delegate to the Twenty-fifth General Synod and attended the Twenty-eighth General Synod as a visitor. Mr. Carlson currently serves on the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors and self-nominated as a member of the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors. He will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Tom Croner** is a European-American lay male, 60+, who owns and operates a hay and grain farm. He is a member of Trinity UCC in Berlin, Pennsylvania. He holds a BS in Agricultural Economics. He served on the Board of Directors of the company that owned Birds Eye Foods and has represented the dairy industry lobbying in Washington and at the state level. Mr. Croner worked as a Special Projects Manager for Snyder of Berlin Potato, a large regional potato chip company. He has experience seven mergers and consolidations in banks and cooperatives. Mr. Croner serves as the Penn West Conference Treasurer. Mr. Croner is a member of the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors and self-nominated as a member of the Office of General Ministries Board. He will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Kevin Finley** is a Native-American lay male, 40-49, and currently serves as the Chair of the Council for American Indian Ministries. He is a member of New Town UCC in New Town, North Dakota. Mr. Finley has a degree in behavioral sciences and currently serves as a Tribal Recreation Director. He volunteers as a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade football coach and volunteers at local correctional facilities. Mr. Finley is a recent recipient of the Community Service Award from the City of Bismarck, North Dakota. Mr. Finley was nominated through the Council for American Indian Ministries. He will serve in the class of 2019.

**Robert “Bob” Frieberg** is a European-American lay male, 60+, and is an attorney. He is a member of Beresford UCC in Beresford, South Dakota. He is the Senior and Managing Partner of Frieberg, Nelson and Ask LLP and sits on the governing body of the American Bar Association. He is a lobbyist at the state level of government. He is the past President of the South Dakota State Board of Education and sits on the University of South Dakota Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Frieberg is a former Assistant Moderator of the General Synod and a long-time Synod Parliamentarian. Mr. Frieberg was nominated through the South Dakota Conference. He will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Gilberto Garcia-Rodriquez** is a Hispanic-American male, 40-49, who holds Ministerial Authorization with an M.Div. He is the Pastor of Trinity UCC in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and has a passion for Christian Education. Mr. Garcia-Rodriquez is a degreed social worker and, in addition to his pastoral duties, he is the Assistant Director of Family Answers, a non-profit social services organization in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Executive Council and is the current Chair of the Council for Hispanic Ministries. Mr. Garcia-Rodriquez was nominated through the Council for Hispanic Ministries. He will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Kira Geary** is a European-American lay female, 18 and under, and is a high school student. She serves as the Vice-president of her school Student Council. She is the Vice-president of her National Honor Society Chapter and a member of the school French Club. She is a member of future Business Leaders of America. Ms. Geary attended the 2012 UCC National Youth Event and took part in a mission trip to Machias, Maine. She volunteers at an after-school Christian day camp and volunteers at the local Humane Society shelter. Ms. Geary was nominated through the Penn West Conference. She will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Roxanne Gould** is a Native-American lay female, 50-59, educator with an Ed.D. in leadership and policy. She is a member of All Nations Indian UCC in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is an adjunct faculty member at Augsburg College where she teaches American Indian Studies. Ms. Gould is the Founder and Co-chair of the American Indian Science and Engineering Conference. She served on the planning committee for the 2011 Indigenous Education Institute and on the Iowa Civil Rights Advisory Committee in the late 1980s. Ms. Gould currently serves on the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors. Ms. Gould self-nominated as a member of the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors. She will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Emily Heath** is a European-American female, 30-39, who holds Ministerial Authorization with a M.Div. and also has a Master’s Degree in Theology. She is the Pastor of West Dover Congregational UCC in West Dover, Vermont. She serves as the Chaplain of the West Dover Fire Department and is a religion writer for the Huffington Post. Ms. Heath served as pastor of two congregations successfully combining what is now one church growing in membership and discipleship. She will be attending her second of two General Synods in Long Beach as a Vermont Conference Delegate and serves as the Vice-moderator of the Conference. Ms. Heath was nominated by a friend through the self-nomination process. She will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Nesa Joseph** is an Indian-American lay male, 60+, and a foundation administrator. He is a member of St. Paul UCC in Lebanon, Illinois. Mr. Joseph holds an Ed.D. with specialty in hospital and health administration. He is the past Vice-president of Operations for the Deaconess Foundation in St. Louis. Prior to that, he served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Manipal Hospital and Heart Foundation in Bagalore, India. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the UCC's Council for Health and Human Services and was the Chair of its Finance Committee. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the United Church Funds, chairing its Governance Committee. Mr. Joseph was nominated through the Illinois South Conference. He will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Julia LeBrell** is a European-American lay female, 19-29, who is a substitute teacher. She is a member of St. Paul's UCC in Dearborn, Michigan. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Ecology and in Evolution and Behavioral Biology. In addition to her education skills, Ms. LeBrell has worked as an office manager and program director at Camp Talahi Retreat and Nature Center. She is a member of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Ms. LeBrell was nominated through the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. She will serve in the Class of 2017.

**DeEtte "Dee" Lundberg** is a European-American female, 50-59, who holds Ministerial Authorization with a M. Div. She is Pastor of United Church of Christ, Casper in Casper, Wyoming. Prior to entering the ministry she was a licensed addictions counselor in private practice. Ms. Lundberg is a former church camp manager. Ms. Lundberg recently organized a pot luck dinner which set a Guinness Book of World Records record with 980 dishes. She currently serves on the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors. Ms. Lundberg self-nominated as a member of the Justice and Witness Ministries. She will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Thea Mateu** is a Hispanic-American lay female, 30-39. She is the Interim Young Adult Ministries Coordinator for the Southern California-Nevada Conference and is also employed by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. She is a member of Claremont UCC in Claremont, California. She holds a M.Ed., and M.Div. and is a member in discernment of the Eastern Association of the Southern California-Nevada Conference. She previously served as a family and domestic violence counselor. Ms. Mateu was nominated through the Southern California-Nevada Conference. She will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Kevin Omi** is a Japanese-American male, 50-59, who holds Ministerial Authorization with an M.Div. He is the Senior Co-pastor of Sycamore Congregational UCC in El Cerrito, California. Prior to entering the ministry Mr. Omi served as a Vice-president of Wells Fargo Bank, as the Executive Director-Kaiser Health Plan, and was a partner at PwC Consulting, an information technology firm that listed clients such as the California State Compensation Insurance Fund, Charles Schwab and Cisco Systems. He holds an MBA. Mr. Omi was nominated by a friend through the self-nomination process. He will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Ronald "Ron" Patterson** is a European-American male, 60+, who holds Ministerial Authorization with an M.Div. He is the Senior Pastor of Naples UCC in Naples, Florida. Mr. Patterson holds an MBA. He currently serves on the Executive Council and is the Co-chair of its Special Committee on Development. Mr. Patterson is a recognized expert in church and non-

profit development. He has served as a delegate to, or otherwise attended, every General Synod since 1977 and is active at the Conference level, as well. He is a member of various local civic organizations. Mr. Patterson self-nominated as a member of the Executive Council. He will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Kevin Peterson** is a European-American lay male, 19-29, piano teacher and freelance musician. He is a member of Wayside UCC in Federal City, Washington. Mr. Peterson holds a BA in economics, ethics, religion and music. He is a former member of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. He is a former member of the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors, served on the Governance Follow-up Team and served on the Constitutional Writing Team which brought the revisions to the UCC Constitution and Bylaws enabling the new governance structure, which is expected to be fully enacted at the Twenty-ninth General Synod. Mr. Peterson self-nominated. He will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Christina Phillips** is a Filipina-American lay female, 19-29. She is a Case Worker at the Judge Baker Children's Center for High Risk Children in Boston. She is a member of First Congregational UCC in Waterville, Maine. She holds a BA in Government. Ms. Phillips served a six-year term as a youth representative to the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth General Synod Nominating Committees. She served as a delegate to General Synod at the age of 14. During high school she was the President of the Maine State Youth Council. Ms. Phillips self-nominated. She will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Ernesto Reyes** is a Filipino-American male, 40-49, who holds Ministerial Authorization with an M.Div. He is a member of First Congregational UCC in Glendale, California. He is the Assistant Administrator and Chaplain of Los Angeles Hospice, Inc. He previously served local churches. After serving active duty in the enlisted ranks of the US Army, he was commissioned a Captain in the Army Chaplaincy and served in the US Army Reserves for nine years. Mr. Reyes currently serves as the Vice-moderator of the Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries. Mr. Reyes was nominated through the Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries. He will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Dwayne Royster** is an African-American male, 40-49, who holds Ministerial Authorization with a MAR after receiving the Privilege of Call through the Philadelphia Association of the Penn Southeast Conference. He is the Pastor of Living Waters UCC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In addition to his pastoral duties, Mr. Royster serves as an elected Councilperson in Norristown, Pennsylvania and is the Executive Director of a multi-faith neighborhood organizing agency. Prior to entering the ministry Mr. Royster was a Program Director and Director of Social Services at social service agencies. He is a member of the Executive Council. Mr. Royster was nominated through the United Black Christians. He will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Carol Shipley** is a European-American lay female, 60+, special education public school teacher, holding an M.Ed. She is a member of First Congregational UCC in Great Falls, Montana. She served on the General Synod Nominating Committee, 2003-2009 and as its Chair 2007-2009.

Ms. Shipley was instrumental in transforming the nominating process to the well-organized Synod function that it is today. Ms. Shipley is a past Honored Lay Woman at the 2001 General Synod, and served as a General Synod delegate in 1993 and 1995. She is a volunteer for her local 4-H Chapter and for her community adult literacy program. Ms. Shipley self-nominated. She will serve in the Class of 2019.

**Nevan Strobelt-McCann** is a Chinese-American lay male, 18 and under, and is a high school student but has begun early classes through the Post-Secondary Program at the University of Akron (Ohio). He is a member of Archwood UCC in Cleveland. He served on the church Search Committee that called its new pastor and now serves on the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. He is a member of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Mr. Strobelt-McCann is the President of his local 4-H Chapter, volunteers at his local food bank and for a program called Let's Grow Akron. Mr. Strobelt-McCann was nominated through the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. He will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Noah Jensen Tabor** is a European-American lay male, 19-29, who is a law school student at St. Thomas Law School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is a member of Maquoketa UCC in Maquoketa, Iowa. Mr. Tabor is a graduate of St. Olaf College where he majored in religion and in political science. He volunteers legal advice to his local Huntington's Disease Youth Organization. He currently serves on the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors and on the board's Organizational Life Committee and Disaster Relief Committee. Mr. Tabor was nominated through the Iowa Conference. He will serve in the Class of 2017.

**William Tanner** is a European-American lay male, 19-29, and is a seminary student. He is a member of First Congregational UCC in Santa Cruz, California. Mr. Tanner has served as a camp director, supervising a staff of 20. Mr. Tanner was a member of the UGov Group that brought the new governance structure, which is expected to be fully enacted at the Twenty-ninth General Synod. Mr. Tanner has a passion for the technical theatre. He is a volunteer for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's fund raising efforts. Mr. Tanner was nominated through the Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns. He will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Jeanne Tyler** is a European-American female, 60+, who holds Ministerial Authorization with an M.Div. She is a member of First Congregational UCC in Madison, Wisconsin, retired from active ministry after serving local churches in Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska. She serves on the National Council of Churches Committee on Disability and on its Leadership Team. She serves as the Co-chair of the UCC Disabilities Ministries and was instrumental in the creation of the Virginia Kryer Scholarship Fund for Theological Studies, benefiting students with disabilities. Ms. Tyler self-nominated as a member of the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors. She will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Dean Wakuzawa** is a Japanese-American lay male, 40-49, CPA and Comptroller. He is a member of Kailua Christian Church UCC in Kailua, Hawaii. He is a Trustee of the Hawaii Conference and is the Chair of its Investment Committee. Mr. Wakuzawa currently works as the Comptroller of a food service company and previously served as Assistant Vice-president and Tax Supervisor for the Bank of Hawaii Investment Services Group. Mr. Wakuzawa volunteered and served as the Treasurer of the local PTA while his children attended elementary school. Mr. Wakuzawa was nominated through the Hawaii Conference. He will serve in the Class of 2017.

**Elizabeth Walker** is a European-American lay female, 50-59, and an attorney. She is a member of Old First Reformed UCC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is the Leader of the Employment Practices Litigation Team for Zurich North American Insurance Group and has been a trial attorney for the past 27 years. She worked in commercial banking while attending law school. She is the Moderator of the Philadelphia Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and serves on the Consistory of her church. Ms. Walker currently serves on the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors and on the UCC Cornerstone Fund Board of Directors. Ms. Walker self-nominated as a member of the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors. She will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Bernard Wilson** is an African-American male, 50-59, who holds Ministerial Authorization with a D.Min. He is the Senior Pastor of Norfield Congregational UCC in Weston, Connecticut. Prior to his call at Norfield, he served as Executive Minister, the Riverside Church in New York. Mr. Wilson is a retired Captain-US Navy; concluding his chaplaincy as the Navy Director of Religious Ministries. Mr. Wilson served as the Chair of the UGov Group that brought the new governance structure, which is expected to be fully enacted at the Twenty-ninth General Synod. He currently serves as the Vice-chair of the Executive Council. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at both Howard University and at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Mr. Wilson self-nominated as a member of the Executive Council. He will serve in the Class of 2015.

**Kimberly Wood** is a European-American female, 40-49, who holds Ministerial Authorization with an M.Div. She is the Pastor of First Congregational UCC in Ottawa, Illinois. She previously owned two home-based businesses. Ms. Wood has served on the Illinois Conference Personnel Committee, served as the Chair of the Metropolitan (Chicago) Association Minister Search Committee and as the Moderator of the Fox Valley Association. Ms. Wood is a sports enthusiast as both a spectator and participant and enjoys music. She serves as an Open and Affirming consultant and was a God Is Still Speaking Trainer. Ms. Wood is a former social worker. She is involved in her local school district and PTA chapter. Ms. Wood self-nominated. She will serve in the Class of 2015.

Demographic Abstract:

# **BIOGRAPHIC STATISTICS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD**

United Church of Christ Board (36 At-Large Positions)	Count	Board Percentages
Male	18	50.0%
Female	18	50.0%
Clergy	12	33.3%
Lay Males	12	33.3%
Lay Females	12	33.3%
African American	5	13.9%
Hispanic	3	8.3%
Native American	2	5.6%
Pacific Island	2	5.6%
Asian American	6	16.7%
Total	18	50.0%
European American	18	50.0%
60+	12	33.3%
50-59	7	19.4%
40-49	6	16.7%
30-39	3	8.3%
19-29	6	16.7%
Youth	2	5.6%
Disability	5	13.9%
LGBT	4	11.1%





## **APPENDIX F**

### **SECOND REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

By unanimous vote, the Twenty-ninth General Synod Nominating Committee has selected the Honorable Brian Holeman, Judge of the Superior Court, the District of Columbia, for nomination as Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod. In doing so, the Nominating Committee cites Mr. Holeman's superlative leadership abilities, innate sense of fairness and over a decade of selfless and exemplary volunteer service to the United Church of Christ at varied settings of the Church, including the national setting.

By so recognizing and honoring Mr. Holeman and enthusiastically recommending that he be elevated from Assistant Moderator of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod, the Nominating Committee is living into the new governance structure of the United Church of Christ, immediately providing for the succession of Synod leadership, as the new structure encourages.

Further, by unanimous vote, and in recognition of her considerable gifts and talents, the Twenty-ninth General Synod Nominating Committee has selected the Rev. Sue Artt, Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Nashville, Illinois for nomination as Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

Rarely has any Nominating Committee of the General Synod been so privileged to submit for election candidates possessing the professional credentials, skill sets, dedication and devotion to the United Church of Christ and love of God as do Mr. Holeman and Ms. Artt.

So, it is with confidence in our selections and with joy for their willingness to serve that the Committee submits for election by delegates to the Twenty-ninth General Synod our fellow members of the United Church of Christ, Mr. Brian Holeman for Moderator and Ms. Sue Artt for Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

Rev. J. Matthew Deal  
Chair-the Twenty-ninth General Synod Nominating Committee

April 2, 2013

**For Election as Moderator and Election of Assistant Moderator  
of the Thirtieth General Synod**

**For Moderator**

**Brian Holeman** is an African-American lay male, 50-59, and a Judge-Superior Court, District of Columbia. He is a member of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, DC, Central Atlantic Conference. Mr. Holeman graduated from Princeton University and holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan School of Law. His appointment to the Court was confirmed by the United States Senate in 2003. Prior to that Mr. Holeman practiced law in the insurance industry. He currently serves as Assistant Moderator of the Twenty-ninth General Synod and sits on its Executive Council. Previously, 2003-2009, Mr. Holeman served as the Central Atlantic Conference Representative to the Executive Council, serving as the Co-chair of its Organizational Life Committee which had major responsibilities to the enactment of the new governance structure, expected to be fully implemented during the Twenty-ninth General Synod. After leaving the Executive Council in 2009 Mr. Holeman was drafted to lend his legal expertise to the group which rewrote the Constitution and Bylaws enabling the new governance structure. Mr. Holeman has served as a Deacon, a Trustee and on the Pastoral Search Committee of Peoples United Church of Christ. He is a former Trustee of the Chicago Theological Seminary, a former member of the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors and currently sits on the Board of Directors of the United Church Funds. Mr. Holeman also sits on the Law Day Scholarship Committee of the Washington, DC Bar Association.

**For Assistant Moderator**

**Sue Artt** is a European-American female, 50-59, who holds Ministerial Authorization with an M.Div. She is Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Nashville, Illinois, Illinois-South Conference. Ms. Artt also holds an MBA and prior to entering the ministry was an executive for the Mobil Oil Corporation, specializing in financial analysis, project management and global mission-critical development. In selecting Mr. Artt, the Nominating Committee cited her skills as both an analytical and conceptual thinker. At the request of her Conference Minister Ms. Artt agreed to start up and led the Illinois-South Conference's Finance Ministry which is largely credited with reestablishing firm financial footing for the Conference and allowing it to make decisions based on its true financial picture. She currently serves as a Conference Representative to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors, but will leave that position with the enactment of the new governance structure, expected to be fully implemented during the Twenty-ninth General Synod. She is the Local Church Ministries representative to the Executive Council's Governance Implementation Taskforce. Ms. Artt is the solo Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ since 2006. She is active in her local ecumenical ministerial alliance. Previously she volunteered as a Big Sister mentoring autistic children and led a local organizing effort to build a community swimming pool.

## **APPENDIX G**

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you, Ms. Moderator.

It has been a great honor and personal privilege to serve as Chair of the Executive Council over the past biennium. These two years have continued the trend of learning, transition and change as the Executive Council has worked to put into action the mandates and charges of the General Synod.

First and foremost we began the final process that would lead to the realization of the new governance structure. To that end a Unified Governance Implementation Task Force was formed to accomplish this most important work that has been at least a decade in the making. Under the outstanding leadership of the Associate General Minister, W. Mark Clark, this group of dedicated members of our beloved church, staff and consultants, have faithfully kept the wheels rolling forward. Before we leave Long Beach and the final gavel falls on Tuesday night, we anticipate the new United Church of Christ Board will be a reality.

As early as October of 2011, Conferences gathering for their annual meetings began to ratify the Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ approved at General Synod XXVIII in Tampa. By October 1, 2012 these amendments were ratified by fully 37 Conferences, with only the Calvin Synod returning a no vote. The Executive Council joyfully received this news even as we felt the finality of leaving behind the old ways of governing to which we had become accustomed.

Throughout the biennium, then, the Executive Council and the four Covenanted Ministries Boards moved forward to complete as much of their work as possible: implementing resolutions, and carrying out their respective fiduciary and governing requirements all the while preparing to say good bye not only to their individual governance structures, but also to colleagues from across the broad geographical expanse of the church who have become cherished friends in Christ.

The journey towards the new structure of the United Church of Christ Board has truly been incredible. Representatives to the Local Church Ministries, the Wider Church Ministries, the Justice and Witness Ministries, the Office of General Ministries and the Executive Council have served with passion, dedication and conviction. We have not always agreed, but in the end, we have remained in covenant together. Praise God.

As previously stated, the process began almost as soon as the existing structure came into being in 2000. Fears and challenges had to be addressed and overcome. New ideas and novel configurations began to reveal yet another new light that is now breaking forth on a collective and collaborative horizon for the ongoing health and vitality of the United Church of Christ. We are, and will continue to be, a living organism: adaptive, resourceful, creative, worshipful and prophetic in our desire to

serve God in communion with Christ and the Holy Spirit. Changing times and needs will ever continue to draw us to new understandings and new formulations of what it means to be faithful followers and loving servants for Jesus Christ in the world. At the close of this General Synod, we will birth an evolving and future Church.

I want to take a moment to name and thank my predecessors for their roles and service as chairs of Executive Council since 2000. In order they are David Anderson, Olga Sandman, Winston Baldwin, Sharon MacArthur, Jim Moos and Pierson Kemp. Their dedication to and devotion for the United Church of Christ is beyond measure.

Another significant occurrence over the last biennium has been the formation of the current Collegium of Officers. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President and Linda Jarmillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries were joined by three new colleagues: James Moos was elected as Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-executive for Global Ministries, Mark Clark was elected as Associate General Minister, and J. Bennett Guess was elected to fulfill the term vacated by Steven Sterns as Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries. The Collegium has become a strong team and we are grateful for the leadership they provide. Geoffrey, Linda and Ben have been nominated for new terms in their respective roles and their election will take place at this Synod. Mark Clark will continue on staff as Chief Administrative Officer as there will no longer be an Associate General Minister in the new structure.

It was at the March 2012 meeting of the Executive Council that Geoffrey Black announced his decision to seek a second term as General Minister and President. Per the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and the Standing Rules of the Executive Council, I appointed an Ad Hoc Committee for the Re-nomination and Re-election of the General Minister and President. An extensive evaluation process was completed involving dozens of responses from persons across the life of the church. Geoffrey was unanimously approved by the Executive Council in October 2013 to be our nominee for a second term as GMP.

In addition to the ongoing implementation of General Synod resolutions, other significant actions of the Executive Council over the past biennium include the adoption of the standing rules for this General Synod, a new United Church of Christ Board Travel Policy, the allocation of funds from Our Churches Wider Mission and blessing the appointment of the new General Council to the United Church of Christ, Don Clark.

There have been several memorable moments in the life of this Executive Council. In November 2011 at the gathering of the Joint Boards in Cleveland, we rejoiced at the astounding success of the Mission 1 initiative. We joined in a joyous service of worship for the installation of Jim, Ben and Mark. We listened to and provided encouragement and suggestions for the BIGS (Bold Inspirational Goals) envisioned by the Collegium to support the core values of Continuing Testament, Extravagant Welcome, and Changing Lives. We prayed grateful prayers and shed some tears over the changes at Bangor Theological Seminary. We mourned the passing of some of our members and shared the grief of others as they lost dear ones. We voiced support for victims of violence, most especially the

needless loss of children to assault weapons. We embraced colleagues who are themselves victims of natural calamities such as tornados, floods, forest fires and Hurricane Sandy. We provided enthusiastic support for the Mission 4/1 Earth and 50 days of dedication to save our planet home. We rejoiced in the addition of some 200 new churches that have joined our denomination over the past four plus years. We shared in a meaningful worship and a celebrative dinner in March of this year as we gathered for the last time as the Joint Ministry Boards of the United Church of Christ.

Fund Development continued to be an important focus for the Executive Council. New initiatives such as the formation of a Human Resources Data Base that includes persons with a variety of skills and attributes are being developed as well as increasing opportunities to donate quickly and efficiently in our local churches, associations, conferences and via the national website. We know the United Church of Christ is a needed entity in the world and we continue to seek novel ways to tell our story, share our testimony and grow our resources for the good of the church and all God's creation.

The Executive Council has completed our work in bringing the slate of candidates for the General Synod Nominating Committee. We are excited by the extraordinary gifts that each candidate offers. Collectively and after careful discernment, the slate of nominees achieves the required diversity of representation.

Finally, this General Synod XXIX will leave its own special imprint on the historical legacy of our United Church of Christ. We will be discussing, discerning and voting upon several important resolutions that will soon come before you from the Committee of Reference of the Executive Council. Each resolution has the possibility to impact our lives in astounding ways. Some resolutions will be controversial and I'm guessing we may not all agree. I do hope that we will hold each other in high regard, loving each other as God loves us. Over the past two years, this has been the experience of the Executive Council, we have been far from perfect, but we have striven diligently to serve you in respectfully, prayerfully and faithfully carrying out our work together. The world is watching what we do. May we continue to follow our still speaking God into the wildernesses that demand our prophetic witness in the creation of the just and righteous community God desires.

With that, Madam Moderator, my report is concluded. I have four pieces of business to bring before the body of delegates. Thank you.



## **APPENDIX H**

### **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL SYNOD XXIX**

At a recent trustees meeting of a related organization, concern was expressed about losing sight of the legacies of the predecessor bodies as we move into what will become the United Church of Christ Board. While a genuine and respected concern, we need to remember that this same concern has been expressed throughout the rich history of the former offices, associations, societies, agencies and instrumentalities during mergers, restructuring and governance changes.

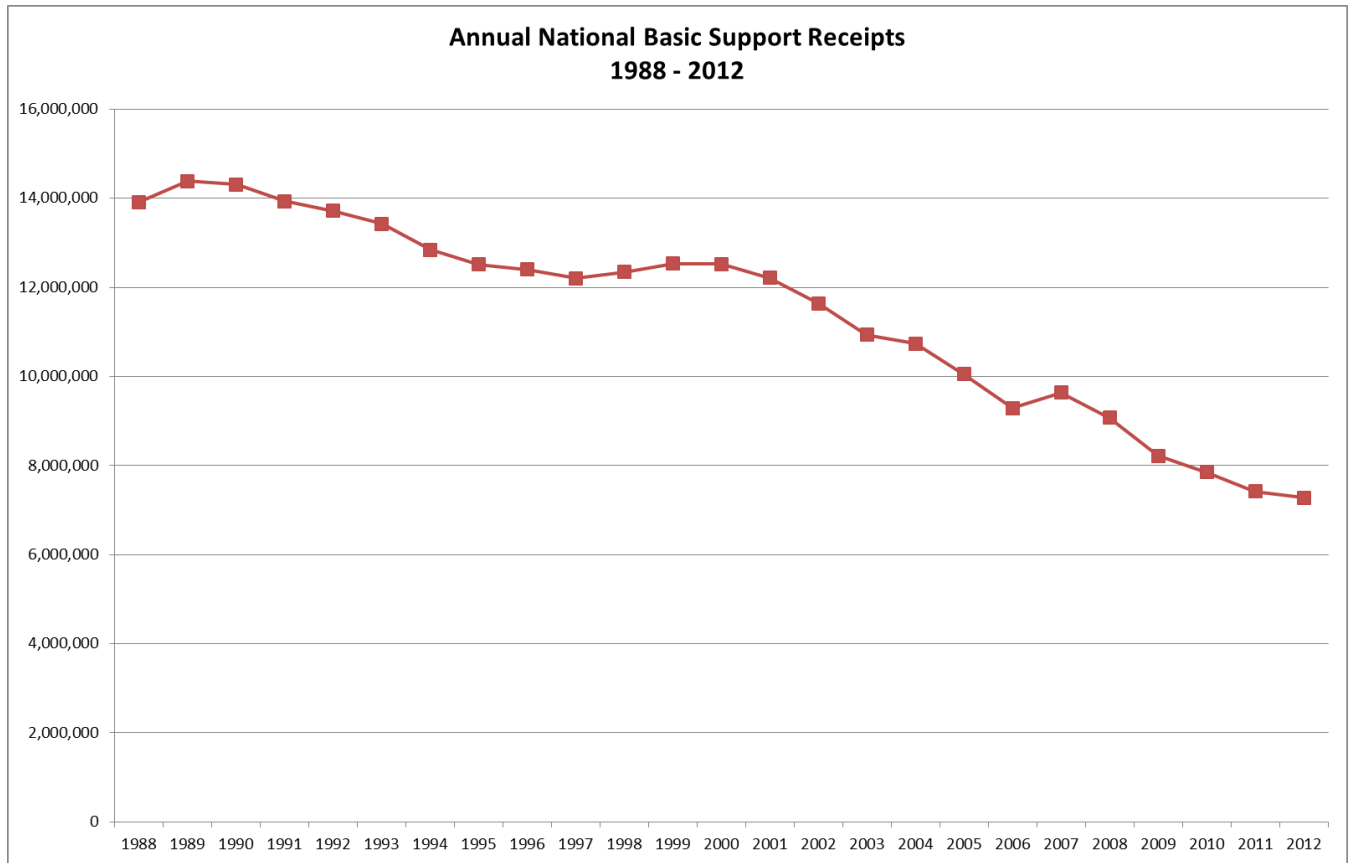
Those legacies provide not only financial support that continues today and into the future but also speak to the United Church of Christ's rich history of bold public witness, education, global mission and church and leadership development. Section 63 of the current United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws lists 26 such offices or organizations which are also named at the end of this report.

First and foremost, amongst our legacies are the endowments and funds functioning as endowments with their related investments that are held by the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministries. The Audited Combined Financial Report of the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ includes combined investments of \$276 million and \$258 million as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. These investments include the endowments that support the annual budgets as well as endowments that are restricted for specific purposes. Approximately 38% of the 2012 revenues that supported the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministries was provided by these investments.

The Covenanted Ministries also benefit from income on funds held in trust by other organizations. Individuals established trusts for the benefit of our predecessor bodies and current ministries that will continue to produce income supporting the annual budgets into the future. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, the market value of the Ministries' percentage of ownership of these trusts totaled \$12.6 million and \$11.9 million, respectively. Approximately 2% of the 2012 revenues supporting the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministries was provided by income from legacies.

Our Church's Wider Mission—both Basic Support and the Special Mission Offerings—accounted for approximately 41% of 2012 revenues that supported the work of the Executive Council, the Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Boards. This report is centered on the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministries.

As stated in past reports and pictured below, Basic Support continues to decline with the trend expected to continue over the next several years. The graph presented below shows a 25-year history of National Basic Support receipts.



At this General Synod, delegates will be asked to approve a National Basic Support base of \$6.3 million and \$6.0 million for 2014 and 2015, which will impact the budgets for the United Church of Christ Board and the Pension Boards.

Following the 2005 General Synod, Basic Support percentage allocations have been referred to the Executive Council as expenses—such as the cost of General Synod—have been shifted to the Executive Council and included in funding that comes off the top of Basic Support, affecting how annual results and budgets are reported to General Synod. The United Church of Christ Board will be charged with determining those allocations in the future.

The intention of this report is to provide additional historical data, 2012 revenues and expenses and the 2013 mission spending plan.



Provided below are the Sources and Uses of Funds for year ending December 31, 2012 and the 2013 Mission Spending Plan for the Executive Council, Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Boards. It is important to remember that the Pension Boards amounts reported for Basic Support and Special Mission Offerings (Christmas Fund) represent only a portion of the Pension Boards' actual revenues and expenses.

Please note that the formats of the reports have been changed from prior years to reflect the cost of the teams/programs within the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministries. Revenues and expenses (sources and uses of funds) of The Executive Council and Office of General Ministries have been combined for presentation purposes to begin reflecting the change in governance.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012**

	<u>EC &amp; OGM</u>	<u>JWM</u>	<u>LCM</u>	<u>WCM</u>	<u>PB</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent of Totals</u>
<b>SOURCES</b>							
OCWM-National Basic Support	\$ 2,602,405	\$ 1,069,720	\$ 1,770,114	\$ 1,198,122	\$ 434,639	\$ 7,075,000	26.26%
OCWM-Special Support	23,111	768,628	316,659	2,504,369	1,464,789	5,077,556	18.85%
Draw on Investments	1,657,288	1,752,255	3,156,881	3,025,529		9,591,953	35.60%
Trusts and Gifts	64,116	118,232	577,913	628,881		1,389,142	5.16%
Reimbursements	315,786	-	131,434	1,276,309		1,723,529	6.40%
Resource Sales/Fees	354,095	2,297	1,682,680	1,736		2,040,808	7.57%
Other	4,967	5,219	15,640	19,092		44,918	0.17%
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 5,021,768</b>	<b>\$ 3,716,351</b>	<b>\$ 7,651,321</b>	<b>\$ 8,654,038</b>	<b>\$ 1,899,428</b>	<b>\$ 26,942,906</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>USES</b>							
Administration	\$ 1,450,040	\$ 1,131,634	\$ 1,270,297	\$ 647,899		\$ 4,499,870	16.70%
Financial Development	909,727	116,882	410,332	466,972		1,903,913	7.07%
Publications, Identity & Communication	1,757,042					1,757,042	6.52%
Research	306,330					306,330	1.14%
Conference & Ecumenical Relations	316,174					316,174	1.17%
Public Life & Social Policy		599,334				599,334	2.22%
Human Rights, Racial, Social & Economic Justice		1,453,195				1,453,195	5.39%
Centers for Education & Social Transformation		325,306				325,306	1.21%
Congregational Vitality & Discipleship			2,902,950			2,902,950	10.77%
Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization			1,047,691			1,047,691	3.89%
Pilgrim Press & United Church Press			1,907,658			1,907,658	7.08%
Overseas Programs				4,462,423		4,462,423	16.56%
Global Sharing of Resources				1,880,256		1,880,256	6.98%
Local Church Relations				202,278		202,278	0.75%
Grants & Other Program Initiatives	282,455	90,000	112,394	994,210	1,899,428	3,378,487	12.54%
<b>TOTAL USES</b>	<b>\$ 5,021,768</b>	<b>\$ 3,716,351</b>	<b>\$ 7,651,321</b>	<b>\$ 8,654,038</b>	<b>\$ 1,899,428</b>	<b>\$ 26,942,906</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Note: The amounts reported above for the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministries have been audited. The amounts for the Pension Boards for Special Support have been provided by the Pension Boards.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MISSION SPENDING PLAN  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013**

	<b>EC &amp; OGM</b>	<b>JWM</b>	<b>LCM</b>	<b>WCM</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent of Totals</b>
<b><u>SOURCES</u></b>							
OCWM-National Basic Support	\$ 2,553,941	\$ 1,007,348	\$ 1,662,948	\$ 1,112,330	\$ 408,433	\$ 6,745,000	22.78%
OCWM-Special Support	22,500	768,000	202,499	3,000,000	1,700,000	5,692,999	19.23%
Draw on Investments	2,280,654	1,688,718	3,479,487	3,492,918		10,941,777	36.95%
Trusts and Gifts	52,750	77,500	701,884	710,000		1,542,134	5.21%
Reimbursements	1,320,227	-	153,000	1,029,671		2,502,898	8.45%
Resource Sales/Fees	380,500	2,000	1,766,204	1,800		2,150,504	7.26%
Other	6,000	5,000	1,500	23,200		35,700	0.12%
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 6,616,572</b>	<b>\$ 3,548,566</b>	<b>\$ 7,967,522</b>	<b>\$ 9,369,919</b>	<b>\$ 2,108,433</b>	<b>\$ 29,611,012</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b><u>USES</u></b>							
Administration	\$ 1,868,641	\$ 925,034	\$ 1,423,616	\$ 769,372		\$ 4,986,663	16.84%
Financial Development	932,537	75,536	351,958	365,192		1,725,223	5.83%
General Synod	1,314,870					1,314,870	4.44%
Publications, Identity & Communication	1,587,464					1,587,464	5.36%
Research	320,356					320,356	1.08%
Conference & Ecumenical Relations	321,554					321,554	1.09%
Public Life & Social Policy		621,618				621,618	2.10%
Human Rights, Racial, Social & Economic Justice		1,431,378				1,431,378	4.83%
Centers for Education & Social Transformation		330,000				330,000	1.11%
Congregational Vitality & Discipleship			2,719,441			2,719,441	9.18%
Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization			1,194,755			1,194,755	4.03%
Pilgrim Press & United Church Press			2,033,975			2,033,975	6.87%
Overseas Programs				4,610,038		4,610,038	15.57%
Global Sharing of Resources				2,343,204		2,343,204	7.91%
Local Church Relations				350,936		350,936	1.19%
Grants & Other Program Initiatives	271,150	165,000	243,777	931,177	2,108,433	3,719,537	12.56%
<b>TOTAL USES</b>	<b>\$ 6,616,572</b>	<b>\$ 3,548,566</b>	<b>\$ 7,967,522</b>	<b>\$ 9,369,919</b>	<b>\$ 2,108,433</b>	<b>\$ 29,611,012</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Notes: The amount for the Pension Boards for Special Support have been provided by the Pension Boards

The increase in Executive Council & Office of General Ministries over 2012 represents income and expenses associated with General Synod.

Sources and uses are also provided in graph format at the end of this report. The programs have been combined into a grand total for the charts.

As you read the information on the following pages, please keep in mind that the changes in governance, including the dissolution of the Office of General Ministries, will result in organizational and cultural shifts at the national offices. If organizational shifts and staff realignments have been announced prior to General Synod, they will be noted where appropriate throughout the document.

## **THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**is called to perform all legal functions of the General Synod when General Synod is not in session. This governing board helps facilitate the visioning, financial planning, communication and coordination of the United Church of Christ's total mission. This board faithfully used \$749,954 in 2012 and will use \$1,840,020 in 2013, which includes \$745,190 and \$795,150 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectively.**

### **Our Administration Ministries will require \$254,000 this year.**

General Synod assigned bylaw changes related to governance to the Executive Council, so associated legal fees are included within this expense category. Also included are funds used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

### **Our Program & Grants Ministries will require \$1,586,020 this year.**

Our program includes expenses associated with General Synod. These expenses are supported through annual allocations from Our Church's Wider Mission-Basic Support and Registration Fees.

Our program includes grants to ecumenical ministries, historical councils and to groups that are part of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

## **THE OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTRIES**

**is called to care for the spiritual life, unity, and well-being of the church; to nurture its covenantal life; to guide its pilgrimage as a multiracial/multicultural church, open and affirming, accessible to all. This office helps the church to focus on theological reflection and to facilitate the visioning, financial planning, communication and coordination of the United Church of Christ's total mission. This ministry faithfully used \$4,271,814 in 2012 and will use \$4,776,552 in 2013 which includes \$1,880,326 and \$1,781,291 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectively.**

### **Our Administration Ministries will require \$1,614,641 this year.**

The General Minister and President (the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black), working with other staff, provides spiritual leadership for the whole church, guiding the visioning and planning necessary for faithful church life through continuing testament, extravagant welcome and changing lives.

The Associate General Minister (Mr. W. Mark Clark), working with other staff, facilitates the work of and helps plan the General Synod in cooperation with the Executive Council, conferences, and local church leadership. The Associate General Minister serves as the operational executive of the Office of General Ministries with day-to-day responsibility for the overall work of the office, including Common Services. Clark also served as the Collegium leader for the 'Faith In Project' strategy, which was launched at National Youth Event in the summer of 2012.

Included in Administration Ministries are two new offices/positions in 2013. These new offices include the Office of General Counsel, which will be responsible for the wide-range of legal issues throughout all settings of the church, and the Executive Associate to the General Minister and President and Minister for Leadership Development and Diversity who will help guide the denomination's work in identifying the next generation of leadership in the UCC by reaching out to seminary presidents, and work with national and conference staff members who relate to the seminaries regularly. This position will also work to shape the Stillspeaking Leadership Institute, one of the eight strategies named and led by the General Minister and President.

Administration also includes the cost of board meetings for the Office of General Ministries. Our staff can be effective in their programmatic work only if there is wise policy-making done by a representative body that has been given the responsibility for governing the Office of General Ministries. Funds are used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

**Our Financial Development Ministries will require \$932,537 this year.**

Our program reaches out to the whole church in financial development ministries in partnership with all of the Covenanted Ministries, inviting and receiving major gifts and planned gifts that extend the church's outreach. The new Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship will encompass members of the current Financial Development Ministry team as well as Local Church Ministries staff currently working in areas of congregational mission support, Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) promotion, grants and scholarships, stewardship and capital campaign services.

**Our Program Ministries will require \$2,229,374 this year.**

Our program includes the church's essential task of proclaiming the Gospel in and through our church as our story is told within and beyond the UCC:

- The UCC web site welcomes more than 1.2 million visitors each year, with nearly half of these visitors as brand-new visitors to the site.
- The UC News team produces more than 300 stories each year, published not only through the UC News outlets, but in other mainstream media including *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Chicago Tribune*.
- *Keeping You Posted*, the denomination's weekly e-newsletter, is delivered weekly to more than 65,000 recipients.

Theological reflection is central and is done in relationship with all expressions of the church and in many ecumenical settings committed to and remaining open to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh.

We express our extravagant welcome as we live in covenant so that the church may be one:

- We work with ecumenical and overseas partners.
- We work with the conferences and institutions of the church.
- We work with our partners within the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

Our program includes record-keeping which is done through the UCC Yearbook Office. A new Research and Data Office for the national setting has been created that will encompass the work of the current Yearbook staff, and also expand our services to the church by offering greater data analysis about trends and projections for the denomination, our churches and authorized ministers. The new Research and Data Office will be housed within Local Church Ministries.

Our administration, financial development and program ministries include the cost of travel, which often connects staff with lay and clergy leaders of the whole church, including those in conference and ecumenical settings.

Included in each of the expense categories named above are costs associated with office space and equipment, maintenance and insurance, as well as office supplies and postage. Also included are common service costs that are allocated to each of the Covenanted Ministries. We cooperate with other ministries so that we can together – and economically – provide for affirmative action, archive support, financial services, meeting arrangements, human resources, information and technology services, mail and copy room/print shop support. In addition, the shared cost of community life provides coordination of weekly worship services for all staff, helps plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting and supports the work of the Collegium of Officers.

*In addition, in a unique and cooperative arrangement, our Office of General Ministries also includes the separate functions of Common Services, which is funded proportionately by each of the ministries. Ministries such as the Pension Boards, the Council for Health & Human Services Ministries, the Insurance Boards and the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund participate in services offered by Common Services, helping defray the costs allocated to the Covenanted Ministries.*

**The Staff Ministries of Common Services will require \$1,699,914 this year.**

This staff oversees all of the financial functions of the four Covenanted Ministries, handling receipts, paying expenses, keeping records, overseeing the audit and reporting to the church.

Staff also facilitate meeting arrangements, guide efforts in human resources, oversee personnel matters and diversity initiatives.

Staff provide necessary archival support for the past and current records of the church and facilitate in processing mail and duplicating services as well as building services.

Staff also provide coordination of weekly worship services for all staff and help plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting, and support the work of the Collegium of Officers.

**The Infrastructure Support of Common Services will require \$1,737,548 this year.**

Outsourced support of our information and technology services is included within this total. This money is also used for managing the computer and telephone systems of the entire office. Also included are the costs associated with office space and equipment, maintenance, insurance, audit and credit card fees as well as office supplies.

**It is important to note that the dollars identified above for Common Services come from the budgets of the Ministries of the church and are allocated amongst the Program, Administration and Fund Development expense categories.**

## **JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

**Is called to enable and encourage collaboration among local churches, associations, conferences and national expressions to engage in God's mission globally as a multiracial/multicultural church, open and affirming, accessible to all. This ministry is called to speak prophetically, to respond to the world's realities of injustice and oppression, to work for liberation and transformation of systems and persons, and to engage in direct action for the integrity of creation, justice and peace. This ministry faithfully used \$3,716,351 in 2012 and will use \$3,548,566 in 2013 which includes \$1,838,348 and \$1,775,348 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectively.**

### **Our Administration Ministries will require \$925,034 this year.**

The Executive Minister (the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo) is responsible for guiding and leading Justice and Witness Ministries and serves as the Collegium Leader for the Intercultural Ministries Soar and Reading Changes Lives strategies.

Administration also includes the cost of board meetings for Justice and Witness Ministries. Our staff can be effective in their programmatic work only if there is wise policy-making done by a representative body that has been given the responsibility for governing the Justice and Witness Ministries. Funds are used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

### **Our Financial Development Ministries will require \$75,536 this year.**

In cooperation with the Financial Development staff in the Office of General Ministries, the Executive Minister and other Justice & Witness Ministries staff reach out to the whole church, inviting and receiving gifts that support JWM's programs.

### **Our Program & Grants Ministries will require \$2,547,996 this year.**

Our program, growing out of our faith and God's call to do justice, offers strong advocacy and direct support for a wide array of issues:

- We work for economic justice, racial justice, human rights and justice for women, global peacemaking, criminal justice, media ethics and public education.
- We advocate for health care for all.
- We provide a public witness on behalf of General Synod.

Our program provides for people of faith to gather and give common voice to specific ways of addressing the elimination of poverty, hunger, racism, classism and sexism.

- We respond to God’s intention for dignity and value for all human beings, especially for those who have been disenfranchised, oppressed and excluded.
- We advocate for justice and God’s redemptive power – in individual lives, in political systems, and in governmental policies at home and around the world.
- Our program works for the common good in public life and for social policies that can restore integrity to human life and creation and that can transform human community to places of peace with strong ties to individuals through the Justice Peace Action Network.

Our Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing is a training program designed to equip local church leaders with the skills and tools needed to develop, strengthen and sustain justice advocacy ministries in our UCC congregations.

Our program provides human, print and media resources for the church, helping people to connect the Christian faith to specific issue:

- We address corporate social responsibility, the environment and conflict resolution.
- We focus on the military complex, the penal system, social and domestic violence and immigration.

Our program includes support for four Centers of Education and Social Transformation at JWM’s Washington D.C. office, Franklinton Center at Bricks in Whitakers, NC, the *Centro Romero* Center in San Ysidro, CA, and Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard, WA.

Our administration, financial development and program ministries includes the cost of travel, which often connects staff with lay and clergy leaders of the whole church, including those in conference and ecumenical settings.

Included in each of the expense categories named above are costs associated with office space and equipment, maintenance and insurance as well as office supplies and postage. Also included are common service costs that are allocated to each of the Covenanted Ministries. We cooperate with other ministries so that we can together – and economically – provide for affirmative action, archive support, financial services, meeting arrangements, human resources, information and technology services, mail and copy room/print shop support. In addition, the shared cost of community life provides coordination of weekly worship services for all staff, helps plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting and supports the work of the Collegium of Officers.



## **LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES**

**is called to encourage and support the local churches of the United Church of Christ in fulfillment of God's mission, supporting the pilgrimage of the United Church of Christ to be a multiracial/multicultural church, open and affirming, accessible to all. This ministry encourages local churches to shape their life and mission in partnership with one another, with other expressions of the church and with ecumenical and interfaith communities. This ministry faithfully used \$7,651,321 in 2012 and will use \$7,967,522 in 2013 which includes \$2,086,773 and \$1,865,447 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectfully.**

### **Our Administration Ministries will require \$1,423,616 this year.**

The Executive Minister (the Rev. J. Bennett Guess) is responsible for guiding and leading Local Church Ministries and serves as the Collegium Leader for the the Stillspeaking Worship Institute and Extravagance UCC strategies. Guess also served as Collegium Leader for the Mission 4/1 Earth: 50 Great Days strategy that just concluded in May 2013. Included within Administration Ministries are staffing support for Leaders in Koinonia (LinK) events, grants and scholarships, eCommerce and marketing-communications.

Administration also includes the cost of board meetings for Local Church Ministries. Our staff can be effective in their programmatic work only if there is wise policy-making done by a representative body that has been given the responsibility for governing the Local Church Ministries. Funds are used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

### **Our Financial Development Ministries will require \$351,958 this year.**

In cooperation with the Financial Development staff in the Office of General Ministries, the Executive Minister and other Local Church Ministries staff reach out to the whole church, inviting and receiving gifts that support LCM's programs.

### **Our Program & Grants Ministries will require \$6,191,948 this year.**

Our program includes a wide variety of gatherings of the church:

- Youth come together for exploring faith and life.
- Leaders come together to learn more effective ways of enabling churches to be extravagantly welcome through worship, evangelism, stewardship and education.

Our program includes many essential services to the church:

- These services provide support for clergy and lay leaders, including chaplains. Helping to prepare leadership open to and prepared for ministry in the present and future church. They provide for a service of vocational placement, connecting congregations with persons authorized for ministry and support for Committees on Ministry.

- Other services help our local churches understand stewardship, how we are gifted by God and how we can call upon each other to be people who give, supporting the wide range of God's mission.
- Our program strives to guide churches towards being vital places of worship, learning and service, to teach that evangelism – welcoming others – is mission.
- This ministry works with conferences of the church to engage in new church development and revisioning of existing churches, providing direct support to conferences and the Center for Progressive Renewal to enhance this ministry.
- This ministry provides annual support to the Council for Higher Education member institutions.

Our program includes a rich collection of print and online resources:

- With a renewed focus on our local churches, these resources serve as teaching tools, provide guidance and support for vital worship, and call upon church members to grow as disciples and stewards. They tell the story of how the church engages in mission and suggest ways for faithful Christians to live in and respond to the secular culture.
- These resources provide faith-based curricula and other resources that support local church leaders who educate, lead worship and nurture faith formation.
- We offer resources that guide local church leaders to fulfill their voluntary tasks in the congregation.
- UCC Resources, our warehouse and distribution and fulfillment center, provides support to our members, local churches, conferences and other institutions wishing to order these resources.

Our administration, financial development and program ministries includes the cost of travel, which often connects staff with lay and clergy leaders of the whole church, including those in conference and ecumenical settings.

Included in each of the expense categories named above are costs associated with office space and equipment, maintenance and insurance as well as office supplies and postage. Also included are common service costs that are allocated to each of the Covenanted Ministries. We cooperate with other ministries so that we can together – and economically – provide for affirmative action, archive support, financial services, meeting arrangements, human resources, information and technology services, mail and copy room/print shop support. In addition, the shared cost of community life provides coordination of weekly worship services for all staff, helps plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting and supports the work of the Collegium of Officers.

## **WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES**

**is called to encourage and support local churches, associations, conferences and national expressions to participate in the global, multiracial/multicultural church, open and affirming, accessible to all. It is called to support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. This ministry faithfully used \$8,654,038 in 2012 and will use \$9,369,919 in 2013 which includes \$3,702,491 and \$4,112,330 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectively.**

### **Our Administration Ministries will require \$769,372 this year.**

The Executive Minister (the Rev. James Moos) is responsible for guiding and leading Wider Church Ministries and serves as the Collegium Leader for the Justice LED (Leaders Engaging & Developing) strategy.

Administration also includes the cost of board meetings for Wider Church Ministries. Our staff can be effective in their programmatic work only if there is wise policy-making done by a representative body that has been given the responsibility for governing the Wider Church Ministries. Funds are used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

### **Our Financial Development Ministries will require \$365,192 this year.**

In cooperation with the Financial Development staff in the Office of General Ministries, the Executive Minister and other Wider Church Ministries staff reach out to the whole church, inviting and receiving gifts that support WCM's programs.

### **Our Program, Grants and Overseas Ministries will require \$8,235,355 this year.**

Our program includes significant relationships with and support of more than 270 partner churches and organizations in more than 70 countries around the world:

- Through these connections we respond to health, educational, community and faith needs around the world.
- Partner churches are supported, human needs are met, refugees are resettled, clinics are outfitted and children are sponsored for renews life.
- Economic, agricultural and community development are supported, along with social services.
- Schools and seminaries are helped and leadership is developed.
- Because of the unique nature of overseas missionaries and our historical understanding of their work, included here in our program efforts is the work of at least 100 mission personnel serving in 5 geographic regions.

Our program includes strong advocacy for justice and human rights. In this work we help to meet the needs of partner churches and also inform our own members about vital justice issues which are addressed through a faith perspective.

Our program includes work that promotes health and wholeness:

- We work to address the needs resulting from the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- We advocate for health and welfare concerns in our own country.
- We minister by, for and with persons with disabilities and maintain relationships with the varied health and human service ministries of the church.
- We nurture family life.

Our program offers services to the church:

- We coordinate a large program of voluntary services.
- We offer global and mission education opportunities with special focus on youth and young adults and leadership development.
- We prepare churches to receive missionaries from other parts of the world, support mutual relationships which build up our faith.

Our administration, financial development and program ministries includes the cost of travel, which often connects staff with lay and clergy leaders of the whole church, including those in conference and ecumenical settings.

Included in each of the expense categories named above are costs associated with office space and equipment, maintenance and insurance as well as office supplies and postage. Also included are common service costs that are allocated to each of the Covenanted Ministries. We cooperate with other ministries so that we can together – and economically – provide for affirmative action, archive support, financial services, meeting arrangements, human resources, information and technology services, mail and copy room/print shop support. In addition, the shared cost of community life provides coordination of weekly worship services for all staff, helps plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting and supports the work of the Collegium of Officers.

## **THE PENSION BOARDS-UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**is called to make available a system of employee benefit programs (health, dental, life, disability and pension plans, as well as programs to meet emergency needs) designed to assist ministers and lay workers in achieving financial security during working and retirement years.**

*Note: The work related to employee benefit plans, including the necessary staff, is funded by contributions made by church employers on behalf of their employees. This defines the Pension Boards as a membership body and the money used for these purposes is not reflected below. What is reflected below is the special work which is support by the whole church through Our Church's Wider Mission.*

### **Our Program Ministries require \$2,108,433 this year.**

This program makes it possible for the church to supplement the pensions of those who retired after years of church services at very low salaries, benefitting those persons and their spouses. The Executive Council sets the level of total pension support requiring supplementation on an annual basis.

## **UNITED CHURCH FUNDS, INC.**

**is called to manage investments for local churches, associations, conferences, institutions, national ministries and other entities related to the United Church of Christ so that financial resources can be best used to strengthen God's mission.**

*Note: Currently United Church Funds receives no money from the church through Our Church's Wider Mission. All of the money it needs for its work comes from modest fees charged against the funds entrusted to its management. Most of the money from fees is used for investment management and marketing and for the support services and governance needed.*

**OTHER REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL &  
COVENANTED MINISTRIES**

Our Church's Wider Mission, both Basic and Special Support, provided for 40.95% of revenue sources in 2012. This percentage is expected to decline to 37.56% in 2013. The majority of this decrease is expected to be through Basic Support.

OCWM Special Support is comprised of four special offerings. Receipts sent to the national offices changed between years as follows: Neighbors in Need decreased by 1.07% in 2012 from 2011; One Great Hour of Sharing decreased by 9.16% in 2012 from 2011; Strengthen the Church experienced an increase and was up 7.25% in 2012 compared to 2011; and the Christmas Fund increased by 4.84% between the last two years.

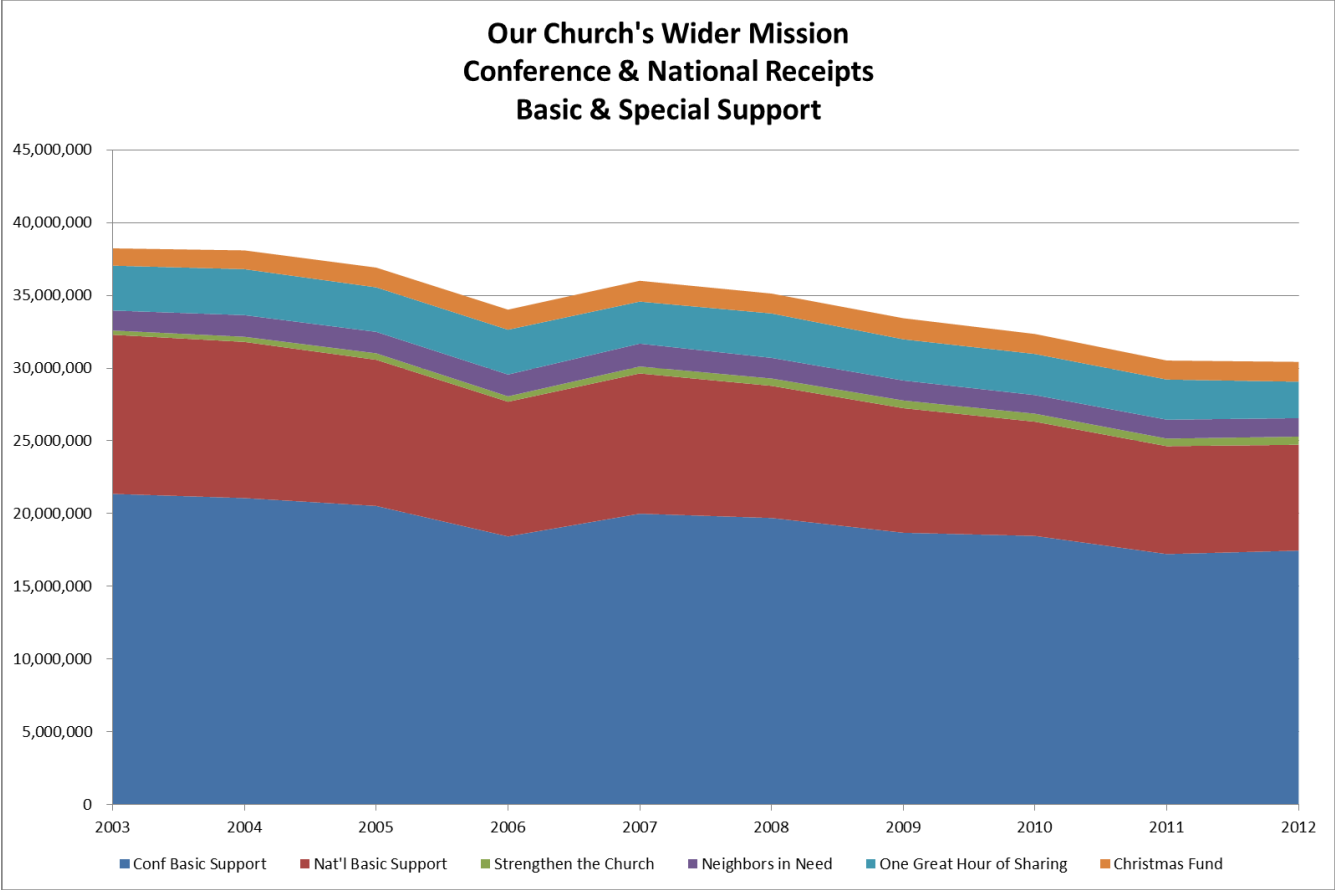
The remaining revenues sources represent the following percentages of total support for the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministries:

	<b>Percentage of Total Revenues</b>	
	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Draws from Investments*	38.29%	39.78%
Trusts and gifts	5.55%	5.61%
Reimbursements**	6.88%	9.10%
Resource sales & fees	8.15%	7.82%
Other	0.18%	.13%

\* Includes additional draws to balance the budget. The average rate for 2012 was 7.69%, the budgeted average rate for 2013 is 8.98%

\*\* Increase in 2013 is due to projected General Synod registration fees

It is important to emphasize that the national setting is not alone in experiencing the declines in Our Church's Wider Mission. As basic support dollars have declined, our conference partners have had to begin difficult discussions about their programmatic work, staffing and sustainability. The chart on the next page provides a graph of total Basic Support at the national and conference levels and the four Special Mission Offerings over the ten year period from 2003 through 2012. The graph clearly shows the trend that has been reported over the past several General Synods. The dollar amounts supporting the graph are provided on the final page of this report.



The cumulative effect of declining OCWM National Basic Support, lack of significant growth in OCWM Special Support, declining draws from investments, rising costs and the use of unrestricted reserves has necessitated budget cuts that have included elimination of program, reduced grants and reduction in national staff and missionaries since restructuring in 2000.

It is unfortunate that the economic recovery has been slow and unemployment, while decreasing, is projected to remain between 6 and 7 percent over the next biennium. Staff of the national setting are not immune to these realities. Programs continue to be reviewed with a goal of efficiency and excellence as staff collaborate between and amongst themselves to support the Church's emphasis on continuing testament, extravagant welcome and changing lives. Faithful stewardship of our resources, and care for the future viability of the national setting, are high priorities.

Financial challenges continue but significant opportunities present themselves as well.

Provided below are the two actions that General Synod will be asked to consider and vote upon:

**PROPOSED NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT PAY OUT BASE FOR 2014 and 2015**

Each biennium, a National Basic Support (NBS) pay out base is recommended by the Executive Council and taken to General Synod for adoption. The base establishes the amount used to calculate the NBS to be paid out. Actual NBS for 2012 was \$7.274 million; the original estimate was \$7.1 million. Due to the continued trend in declining dollars and adjusted sharing ratios between the Conferences and the national setting, the Executive Council is recommending that the General Synod adopt a National Basic Support Allocation base of \$6.304 million and \$6.017 million for the budget years 2014 and 2015.

**PROPOSED NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ANNUAL ALLOCATION FOR 2014/2015**

Each year, the percentage allocation of OCWM National Basic Support is recommended by the Executive Council. General Synod will be asked to delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for OCWM National Basic Support for 2014 and 2015 to the United Church of Christ Board. The current percentages for the budget year 2013 are: Executive Council 11.789%; Office of General Ministries 26.075%; Justice and Witness Ministries 14.935%; Local Church Ministries 24.655%; Wider Church Ministries 16.491% and the Pension Boards 6.055%.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Houston  
Chief Financial Officer  
June 13, 2013

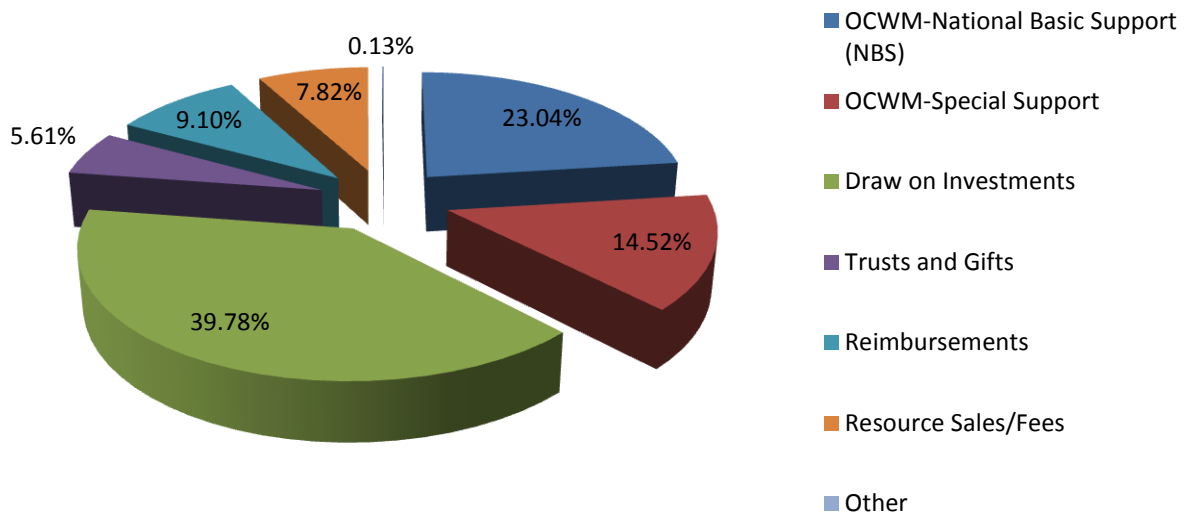


**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Legacy Offices and Organizations**

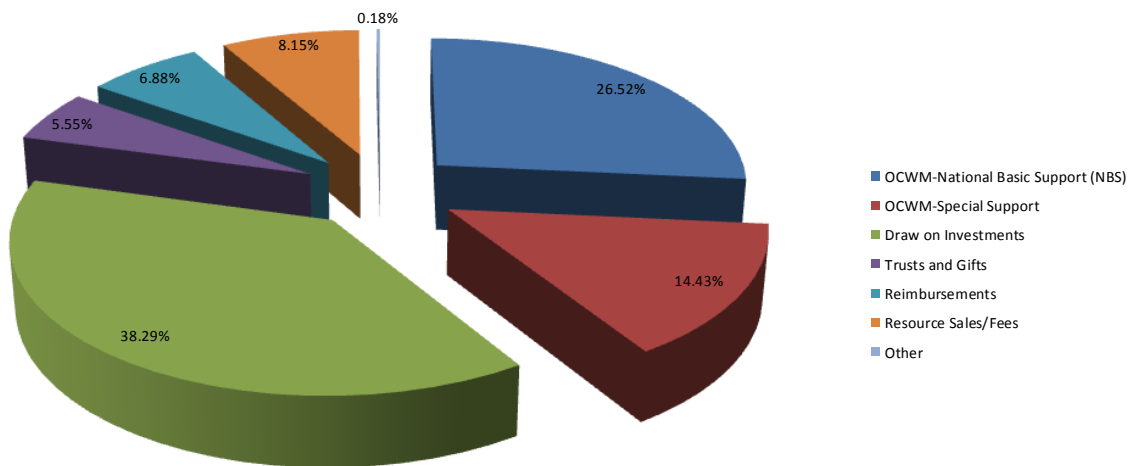
Secretary  
Director of Finance and Treasurer  
American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions  
Board of International Missions  
Commission on World Service  
Congregational Christian Service Committee  
United Church Board for World Ministries  
Board of National Missions  
Board of Christian Education and Publication  
Board of Business Management  
Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S.  
American Missionary Association  
Congregational Church Building Society  
Congregational Education Society  
Congregational Home Missionary Society  
Congregational Publishing Society  
The Congregational Sunday School Extension Society  
Congregational Women's Home Missionary Federation  
United Church Board for Homeland Ministries  
Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society  
Commission for Racial Justice  
Office for Church Life and Leadership  
Office for Church in Society  
Stewardship Council  
Commission on Development  
Office of Communication

## Revenue Charts

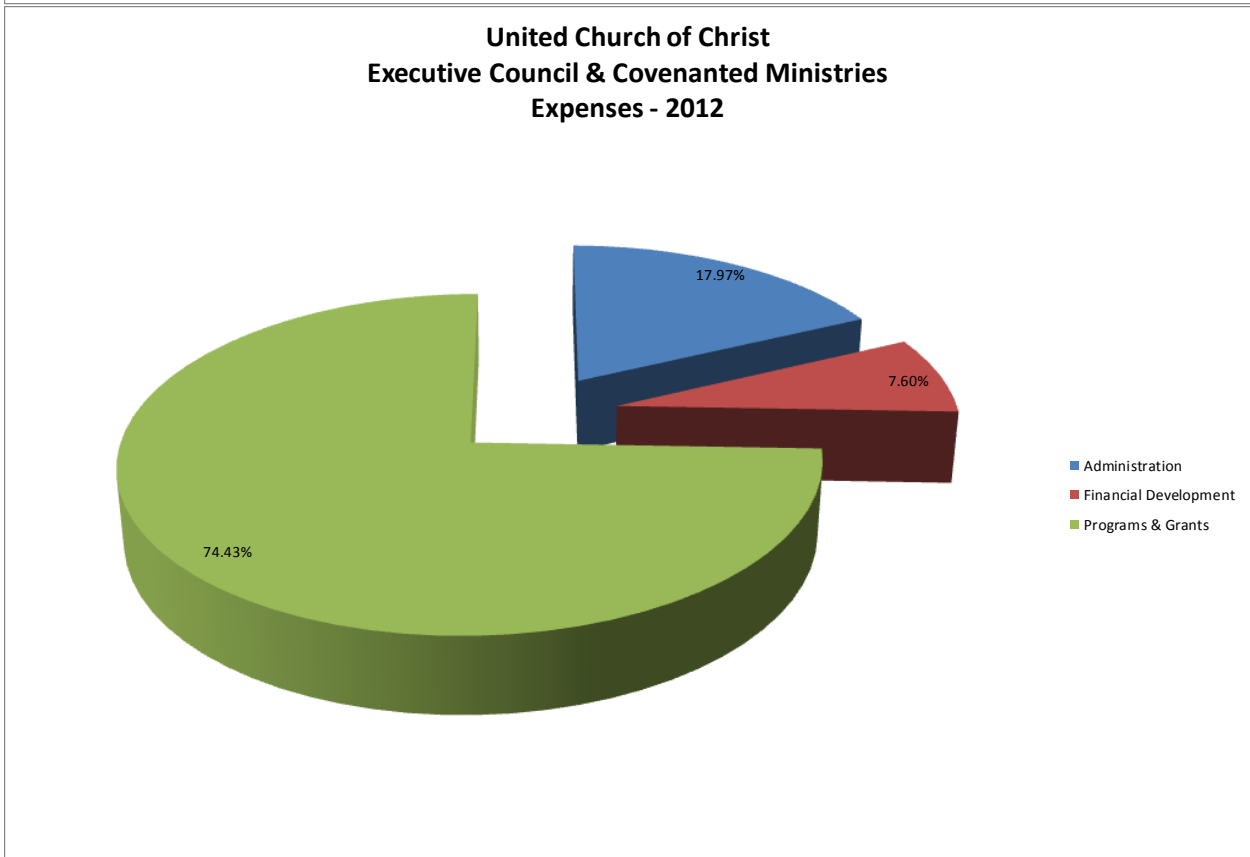
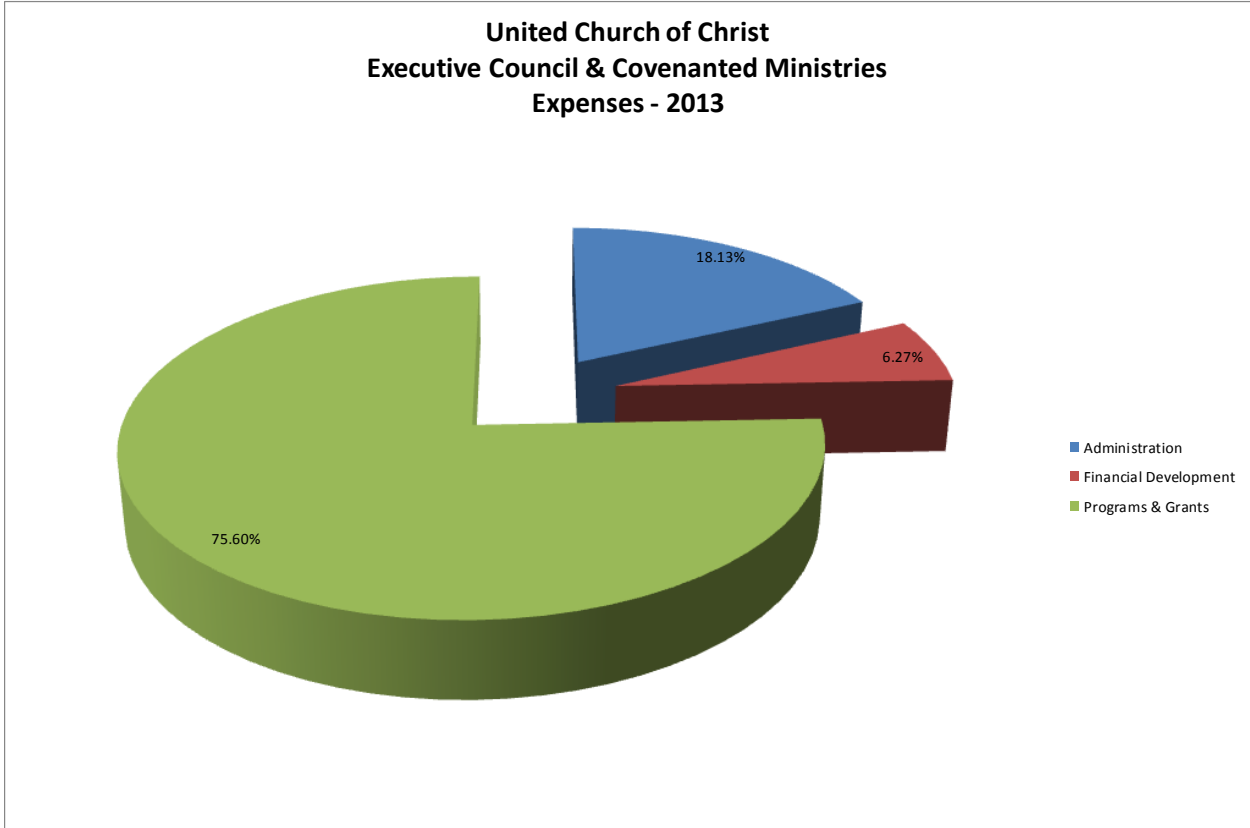
### United Church of Christ Executive Council & Covenanted Ministries Revenue Sources - 2013



### United Church of Christ Executive Council & Covenanted Ministries Revenue Sources - 2012



## Uses (Expense) Charts



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
OFFERING TREND SUMMARY**

<u>Year</u>	<u>OCWM Conference</u>	<u>% Chg</u>	<u>OCWM National</u>	<u>% Chg</u>	<u>STC</u>	<u>% Chg</u>	<u>NIN</u>	<u>% Chg</u>	<u>OGHS</u>	<u>% Chg</u>	<u>Christmas Fund</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
2012	17,461,509	<b>1.38%</b>	7,274,193	<b>-1.89%</b>	558,901	<b>7.11%</b>	1,269,591	<b>-2.21%</b>	2,504,369	<b>-9.16%</b>	1,364,507	<b>4.09%</b>
2011	17,224,398	<b>-6.74%</b>	7,414,361	<b>-5.56%</b>	521,790	<b>-5.10%</b>	1,298,288	<b>1.42%</b>	2,756,804	<b>-2.34%</b>	1,310,943	<b>-4.66%</b>
2010	18,470,133	<b>-1.18%</b>	7,850,860	<b>-8.29%</b>	549,835	<b>3.84%</b>	1,280,106	<b>-6.64%</b>	2,822,878	<b>-0.38%</b>	1,374,983	<b>-5.04%</b>
2009	18,689,822	<b>-5.14%</b>	8,560,888	<b>-5.73%</b>	529,507	<b>4.74%</b>	1,371,196	<b>-3.40%</b>	2,833,600	<b>-7.06%</b>	1,447,961	<b>5.81%</b>
2008	19,703,441	<b>-1.46%</b>	9,081,690	<b>-5.80%</b>	505,552	<b>5.31%</b>	1,419,476	<b>-9.60%</b>	3,048,840	<b>5.48%</b>	1,368,479	<b>-4.36%</b>
2007	19,996,075	<b>8.48%</b>	9,640,973	<b>4.09%</b>	480,038	<b>30.08%</b>	1,570,270	<b>4.82%</b>	2,890,359	<b>-6.16%</b>	1,430,840	<b>3.50%</b>
2006	18,432,468	<b>-10.22%</b>	9,261,708	<b>-7.80%</b>	369,043	<b>-16.99%</b>	1,498,018	<b>1.54%</b>	3,080,088	<b>0.67%</b>	1,382,444	<b>1.74%</b>
2005	20,530,030	<b>-2.58%</b>	10,045,760	<b>-6.40%</b>	444,584	<b>26.28%</b>	1,475,368	<b>-0.98%</b>	3,059,672	<b>-3.14%</b>	1,358,789	<b>5.52%</b>
2004	21,072,728	<b>-1.35%</b>	10,732,556	<b>-1.85%</b>	352,055	<b>20.60%</b>	1,489,964	<b>8.61%</b>	3,158,743	<b>2.39%</b>	1,287,693	<b>8.06%</b>
2003	21,361,508		10,935,391		291,928		1,371,868		3,084,997		1,191,639	
2000	21,089,695		12,526,614		263,080		1,471,651		3,179,267		1,353,293	
					Note 1		Note 1				Note 2	

Note 1: Includes Conference and National portions.

Note 2: Figures represent only those receipts sent to National Offices, do not include receipts sent directly to Pension Boards